DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Delhi CM attacked during public event at residence, man held

Page 9

Ruckus in LS over Bills to sack PM, CMs & ministers

Bills sent to JPC; BJP, Trinamool MPs come close to scuffle

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Lok Sabha witnessed acrimonious scenes on Wednesday, with BJP and Trinamool Congress MPs coming close to a scuffle in the Well of the House, during the introduction of three Bills seeking the removal of top political executives in states and at the Centre who remain in custody for 30 days on charge of any serious offence.

Opposition MPs tore the Bills and raised slogans as Union Home Minister Amit Shah stood up to introduce them.

Amid the pandemonium, Speaker Om Birla referred the Bills to a 31-member Joint Committee of Parliament (JPC).

The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill 2025, The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill 2025 and The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2025 were taken up for introduction at 2 pm. When Birla called the Opposition MPs who had given notices against the introduction, Trinamool Congress MPs rushed to the Well and shouted slogans near the home minister.

Opposition MPs Asaduddin Owaisi, Manish Tewari, KC Venugopal and NK Premachandran opposed the introduction claiming that it attacked the basic structure of the Constitution and the Bills were aimed at targeting Opposition-ruled governments.

TMC's Kalyan Banerjee went near Premachandran and Venugopal and shouted slogans while they were speaking.

Venugopal referred to Shah's arrest when he was the Gujarat home minister and questioned his claim of morality in politics.

Shah shot back saying he had resigned on moral grounds before his arrest in a "fabricated" case and joined the government only after being discharged by the court.

Venugopal claimed the Bills were to target the Opposition and tore the papers.

A number of Opposition MPs also tore the Bills and threw them while Trinamool MPs moved towards Shah and aggressively shouted slogans.

▸ Lok Sabha, Page 5

A piece of torn-up paper flies in front of Union Home Minister Amit Shah as he speaks in the Lok Sabha amid protest by Opposition members, in New Delhi, on Wednesday. PTI

CONTENTIOUS BILLS

- JPC to examine the 3 Bills
- Will comprise 21 members from LS and 10 from RS
- To submit report by last day of the first week of the next session (likely November)
- Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill 2025 will require support of at least 2/3rds of members in both Houses

Govt says...

- Bills elevate declining level of morality in public life
- Brings integrity to politics
- Bills being sent to JPC where members can make suggestions

Oppn says...

- Violates constitutional principles
- Targets federalism
- Turns jurisprudence 'innocent until proven guilty' on its head
- Open to misuse for political reasons

> These Bills make an Investigating Officer the boss of the PM... They distort Parliamentary democracy by displacing the will of the people... These Bills open the doors for political misuse through arbitrary conduct..., repeatedly frowned upon by the Supreme Court
>
> **MANISH TEWARI**
> Congress

'Bills aimed at states ruled by Opposition'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Opposition MPs K C Venugopal, Manish Tewari, Asaduddin Owaisi and NK Premachandran on Wednesday opposed the introduction of the three Bills in the Lower House, saying the legislation violates the basic structure of Constitution.

They also alleged that it is aimed at Opposition-ruled state governments.

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said the Bills gave executive agencies "free hand (to be) judge, jury, and the executioner based on allegations and suspicions." He added: "This would leave the CMs and ministers under the mercy of agencies...The government is creating a police state."

Details on Page 9

Shah questions Oppn intention

Ahead of the crucial Bihar elections, the BJP-led NDA at the Centre has sought to make corruption in high constitutional offices a poll plank by introducing the three Bills.

"Now the people of the country need to decide: Is it right for a minister, chief minister, or prime minister to run a government from jail?" Home Minister Amit Shah posted on X after introducing the Bills.

BJP and its ally JDU are pitched against the Lalu Yadav's RJD led I.N.D.I.A. bloc in Bihar that goes to the polls in October. Lalu and his family are currently embroiled in multiple corruption cases.

The political divide on the Bills could provide the NDA a pole position in Bihar.

Details on Page 9

> The nation also remembers the time when, in this very august House, then PM Smt Indira Gandhi Ji, through Constitutional Amendment, granted special privilege to the PM, ensuring that no legal action could be taken against her
>
> **AMIT SHAH**
> Union Home Minister

Health, life insurance premium may be exempted from GST

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) on health and insurance premiums for individuals is likely to be cut to zero from the current 18% as part of the proposed next-generation reforms in the country's indirect tax system.

A 13-member state group of ministers (GoM) at its meeting in Delhi broadly agreed to exempt individual insurance premiums from GST. This is in line with the Centre's proposal.

"The Centre's proposal is clear that individual and family insurance policies should be exempted from GST. The GoM report will be presented to the Council," Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and convener of the GoM on insurance Samrat Choudhary told reporters.

"All members have given their approval for lowering rates. Some states have given their views," he said, adding a final call will be taken by the GST Council, which is likely to meet in September.

Some states raised objections due to the potential revenue loss. The move may result in a revenue loss of Rs 9,700 crore, Telangana Deputy CM and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said.

▸ GST, Page 5

CM announces permanent SC commission

After internal quota order, freeze on recruitments to go

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced on Wednesday that the Cabinet has decided to constitute a permanent Scheduled Castes Commission to periodically provide reports on the community.

Making a statement in the Legislative Assembly, Siddaramaiah said: "We have decided to form a permanent Scheduled Castes Commission to provide reports based on the mobility amongst SCs, available data and study of castes from time to time."

This is along the lines of the Permanent Backward Classes Commission, which revises the list of backward classes in the state periodically.

The chief minister also announced that recruitments will be started as soon as the order on internal reservation is issued, and that the age restrictions will be relaxed on a one-time basis.

Currently, there is a freeze on job recruitments.

> We have decided to form a permanent Scheduled Castes Commission to provide reports based on the mobility amongst SCs, available data and study of castes from time to time
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH**
> Chief Minister

Explaining that the Cabinet has accepted the Nagamohan Das Commission report with some modifications, Siddaramaiah noted that it has been decided to reduce the five categories (A, B, C, D, E) suggested by the Das Commission to three (A, B, C).

The chief minister stated that the 17% reservation matrix will be divided such that SC (Left)/ Madiga and affiliated castes (Group A) will get a 6% reservation, SC (Right)/ Holeya and affiliated castes (Group B) will get 6%, while 'touchable' Dalits (Banjara, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha) and 59 'most backward' communities (Group C) will together get 5%.

The Das Commission had recommended 1% quota for most backward communities.

▸ SC commission, Page 5

Dharmasthala case: 'No Ananya did MBBS in KMC in 2003'

HARSHA
MANGALURU, DHNS

Amid the SIT probe into the alleged Dharmasthala burials, sources in Manipal Academy of Higher Education informed that records show that no student named Ananya Bhat had enrolled for the first year MBBS in Kasturba Medical College (KMC) in 2003.

"After extensive scrutiny, we found no student named Ananya had enrolled in KMC in 2003," informed sources on condition of anonymity.

SIT takes over case

A complaint on the disappearance of medical student Ananya Bhat from Dharmasthala in 2003 was handed over to the SIT on the orders of the state police chief on Tuesday.

Sujatha Bhat, in her complaint to Dakshina Kannada superintendent of police and Dharmasthala police station on July 15, had stated that her only daughter Ananya Bhat had gone missing while on a trip to Dharmasthala with other students in 2003.

Sujatha stated that Ananya was pursuing first-year MBBS in KMC in Manipal -- a constituent college of MAHE.

The Anti Naxal Force used to monitor Sujatha's movements during her visits to Kalasa and Beltangady, said ANF sources. "As she was on the list of 'urban naxals', we monitored her movements for a couple of years till 2013," they said. Activist Ramachandra Bhat from Kuthlur in Beltangady also claimed to have seen Sujatha among groups supporting Maoist ideology.

'Won't Guv sitting on Bills put govts at his whims?'

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought to know that if Governors simply withhold their assent to Bills without returning them to the Legislative Assembly, would it not place the state governments elected by the majority at the whims and fancies of the Governor.

"Would we not be giving total powers to Governor to sit over appeal. The government elected with the majority will be at the whims and fancies of Governor," a five-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India B R Gavai, said, hearing the Presidential reference on fixing timelines for passage of Bills.

The court's observations came as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, argued that the Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution can withhold assent to a Bill, making it "fall through" with no option to send it back to the legislature.

The court said the Governor will then have ample powers to sit over Bills and withhold them indefinitely. The bench said it is appreciated that constitutional functionaries would be presumed to act in bona fide manner. The possibility of misuse of the power can't be a ground of challenge.

Mehta, however, said that everyone derives power from the Constitution. He said discretionary powers have been assigned to the Governor.

"The Governor is not a postman. He represents the Union of India (Centre)," Mehta said.

▸ Governors, Page 5

Quickly

'Thief' dies in police station

A theft suspect was found dead inside the washroom of the MK Doddi police station in Bengaluru South district, officials said on Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Ramesh, 59. While the police said he was found hanging inside the washroom, family members said he was killed in custody.

Details on Page 2

Bike taxis: Govt to take call

The state government informed the HC on Wednesday that a "conscious" decision will be taken whether there should be a policy on bike taxis. The government was responding to the court's query if there was a conscious decision to ban them.

Details on Page 5

Rains batter Karnataka

Incessant rains pounded parts of Karnataka on Wednesday, damaging crops and prompting precautionary evacuations, even as major reservoirs neared full capacity. Dharwad, Gadag, Davangere, Haveri and Uttara Kannada got heavy rains.

Details on Page 5A

LAND WOES

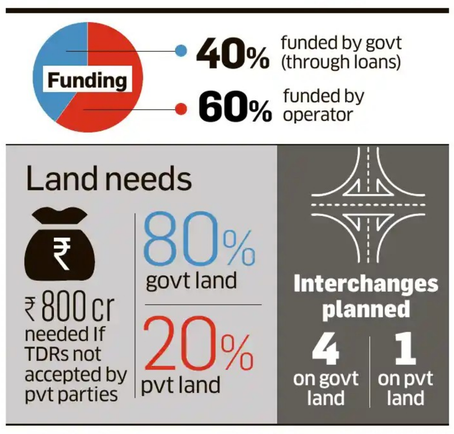
Tunnel road will need 80 acres: DPR

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The ambitious tunnel road in Bengaluru could require around 80 acres of land, according to the Detailed Project Report (DPR). Of this, close to 80% would be government land, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said in a written reply to a question raised by MLC C T Ravi in the Legislative Council.

While the government plans to acquire the remaining 20% of land from private entities by offering Transferable Development Rights (TDR), officials estimate they may need close to Rs 800 crore to acquire these properties if the private entities refuse to accept TDR.

The project also involves five interchange points and of this, four will come up at government properties. The remaining one is planned at St John's Hospital. The survey work to acquire this property has already begun.


Funding
40% funded by govt (through loans)
60% funded by operator
Land needs
₹ 800 cr needed if TDRs not accepted by pvt parties
80% govt land
20% pvt land
Interchanges planned
4 on govt land
1 on pvt land

However, concerns have been raised over the large tract of land required for the project.

The government had earlier justified the project by stating that it couldn't acquire large parcels of land to develop roads.

▸ Tunnel road, Page 5

MARUTI SUZUKI
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Thief found dead in police station washroom

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 59-year-old suspect was found dead inside the washroom of the MK Doddi police station in Bengaluru South district on Wednesday evening.

The deceased, Ramesh, of Dundanahalli in Mandya, had been arrested along with his son Manju, 27, and Venkatesh, 36, of Mysuru for allegedly stealing from a temple in Bommanayakanahalli, Channapatna.

They were in three-day police custody and were due to be produced before the court on Wednesday.

At 6.45 pm, Ramesh, who the police said had previous cases, sought permission to use the washroom, but did not return. The police said that he was found hanging using his dhoti. He was rushed to hospital and declared dead.

His family alleged custodial killing. Superintendent of Police R Srinivas Gowda visited the station. The CID has been asked to investigate.

Two booked for flying drones near High Court

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Vidhana Soudha police booked two men for flying an unauthorised drone near the Karnataka High Court.

A case was registered against Vishal and Rohith under BNS sections 125 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 289 (negligent conduct with respect to machinery).

On August 18, around 9.09 pm, the police control room alerted the station about a drone flying near the court footpath.

The police traced the suspects, who said they were trying to get a better angle of the Vidhana Soudha lighting, and it was for personal consumption only.

"They were later released on station bail," an officer said.

Job fair for senior citizens on Sept 7

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Nightingale Empowerment Foundation will host a job fair for senior citizens on September 7 at St Joseph's University, Langford Road, from 9 am to 3 pm.

Organised with the Nightingales Medical Trust, Archdiocese of Bangalore, and St Joseph's University, the fair is open to people aged 55 to 70, with free registration.

This is the 10th edition of the fair, aimed at promoting financial security and independence among the elderly. Over nine editions, more than 8,500 seniors have registered, with 2,925 finding re-employment.

The foundation is inviting employers from fields such as marketing, retail, finance, and teaching to participate. Employers with over 10 vacancies will be given stalls.

For details, contact 080-42426565 or 9243737214, or visit nightingalesjobs60plus.com.

After 8-yr delay, service roads on airport stretch nearly complete

Jakkur section stuck over tree-cutting approvals

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The ongoing construction of service roads at two places along the airport road (NH 44) will be completed by October, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has said.

A one-kilometre service road is coming up opposite Esteem Mall in Hebbal, while another 1.1-km-long stretch is under construction at Jakkur. The road will have two lanes with paved shoulders at both locations.

Both roads will be about 10 metres wide, with a 2.5-metre utility duct and a 1.5-km drain. Once completed, they will help ease congestion on the busy route to the airport.

The project had been stalled for eight years due to land issues. NHAI later acquired the land and began the work.

"These service roads were left out of the concessionaire's scope of work earlier because land was not available," Vilas P Brahmankar, Regional Officer, NHAI (Bengaluru), told *DH*.

Near Esteem Mall, the NHAI is also widening a minor bridge to facilitate the flow of water from Hebbal Lake to the stormwater drain.

"The bridge is ready up to the slab level and requires 28 days of curing. We've not laid the bitumen layer because of continuous rainfall. The surface must be dry for it to hold," said KB Jayakumar, Project Director, NHAI (Bengaluru).

The service road under construction near Esteem Mall in Hebbal. DH PHOTO

He noted that the work has been challenging because water pipelines had to be shifted. Coordination with state government agencies was also required, he added.

However, the work at Jakkur has hit a roadblock because tree-cutting permissions are pending, Jayakumar said.

"We've constructed about 500 metres and laid bitumen. To finish the rest, we demolished part of the Jakkur aerodrome building last week and need to cut 15-20 trees. Despite paying Rs 10.5 lakh to the BBMP's forest cell, we are yet to receive permission to cut trees. These are not seasoned trees," he explained.

According to Jayakumar, the service road near Esteem Mall will be ready in 30 days, while the stretch at Jakkur could be finished in 40 days if tree-cutting permission is received.

Pradeep BU, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic, Northeast), said the work in Hebbal was causing traffic congestion.

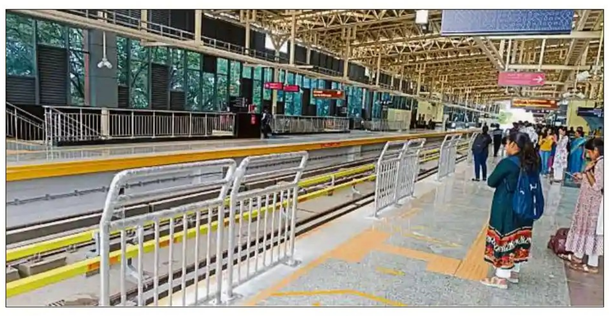
But Brahmankar disagreed. "We've not taken existing space from the main carriageway so there's no question of disrupting trafffic," Brahmankar said.

Jayakumar concurred.

'Service road badly needed'

A Yelahanka resident said the service road at Hebbal was badly needed.

"Buses plying towards Chikkaballapur, Andhra Pradesh, and Hyderabad halt here to pick up passengers in the evening. This holds up traffic and the problem becomes acute during the rains. The service road will help the airport-bound traffic exiting the Hebbal flyover," he said.



The barricades are meant to prevent untoward incidents due to overcrowding. It was previously installed at Majestic.

Handrail barricades to prevent mishaps at RV Rd metro station

BENGALURU, DHNS: Namma Metro has installed handrail barricades on the RV Road station platform serving trains towards Bommasandra on the Yellow Line.

BL Yashavanth Chavan, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO), Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), confirmed the move to *DH*.

The decision follows a surge in crowds after the Yellow Line opened on August 11.

RV Road, one of the two terminals of the 19.15-km corridor, has seen a sharp rise in crowds as passengers switch between the Yellow and Green lines here.

A senior BMRCL official said that average daily boardings on the Yellow Line had crossed 80,000, including about 20,000 using RV Road as an interchange.

With only three trains running every 25 minutes, a large number of passengers gather at RV Road to transfer between the two lines.

Passengers from Bommasandra use the side platform to switch to the Green Line, creating heavy congestion. Green Line passengers heading to the Yellow Line have to change the platform through the concourse.

Though the BMRCL has deployed security guards to guide passengers, there are concerns that crowd surges could cause someone to fall onto the electrified tracks.

The barricades are meant to prevent untoward incidents due to overcrowding, according to the BMRCL. It previously installed such barricades at Majestic, the city's first interchange metro station.

While passengers have demanded that the BMRCL install platform screen gates at RV Road, BMRCL officials said that would require retrofitting and that the platform may have to be shut for months.

The BMRCL plans to install platform screen doors at the Majestic and Central College underground metro stations at a cost of Rs 8-9 crore each. It is yet to call tenders.

Glitches on traffic police app leave users frustrated

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The ASTraM (Actionable Intelligence for Sustainable Traffic Management) app, launched by the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP), has drawn flack from users over persistent technical glitches.

Though meant to help citizens report traffic violations, the app's long list of conditions makes filing complaints difficult, users say.

To get the accurate location and time of the violation, the police want citizens to enable the geo-location while taking pictures. But many report that even after enabling geo-location and uploading photographs through the app, their complaints are rejected.

Prashanth, a tech professional, said, "I follow all the instructions of the police while posting on the ASTraM app, yet my complaint is rejected. I just do not understand what the issue is."

Others complain that instead of simplifying reporting, the police respond on X with more instructions rather than acting against violators.

Vinay, another user, said, "It is a public platform. It should be easier to use. When we ask questions on X, police personnel are interested in questioning us and directing us rather than questioning the violators."

Users vent their frustration on X by tagging the BTP only to receive more instructions from the police.

Users have also flagged inaccuracies in the 'Plan My Trip' feature, citing mismatches of at least two kilometres and significant time differences compared with Google Maps and Apple Maps.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy said, "We are trying to validate all traffic violations. Everything should be solved and validated in a month's time."

The police believe the issue is largely faced by Android users, where geo-location is not enabled by default.

Labourers electrocuted, two others injured while dismantling tent

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two labourers died and two others were injured after coming in contact with a high-tension wire while dismantling a tent in southeastern Bengaluru on August 18.

The deceased are Ashan Ali (40) and Abdul Khayum (42). Their colleagues, Mohidul Islam (27) and Momrej Ali (20), are being treated in hospital.

The police said that the four, employees of BMS Tent House, were removing a canopy tent outside the Dakshin Honda two-wheeler showroom near the Hosur service road in Singasandra around 4 pm.

When they lifted a pole, it touched an overhead high-tension wire. All four collapsed and were rushed to hospital, where Ashan and Khayum were declared dead.

Momrej alleged that neither the showroom nor their employer had provided safety equipment. A case has been registered against Dakshin Honda and BMS Tent House under BNS sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 125(b) (act endangering life or personal safety of others).

Kolkata train extended

BENGALURU, DHNS: The railways has extended the special train service linking Yeshwantpur and Santragachi (Kolkata).

Train number 02863 Santragachi-Yeshwantpur Special will run on Thursdays until September 18.

Train number 02864 Yeshwantpur-Santragachi Special will run on Saturdays until September 20, the press release said.

Lured by lottery 'win', woman loses Rs 11.8 lakh to cyber fraudsters

BENGALURU, DHNS: A woman in western Bengaluru lost Rs 11.80 lakh to cyber fraudsters who posed as lottery executives and later as Delhi police officers.

Tulasi K (name changed), a homemaker, said she received a WhatsApp call from an unknown number claiming she had won Rs 8 lakh in a Kerala lottery.

The suspects shared a fake website, keralattorywinner.com, convincing her to pay Rs 19,190 as processing charges and later Rs 26,400 as additional fees to claim the winnings.

She was then contacted by a caller posing as a Delhi police officer, who told her to transfer her money for "verification" to resolve an alleged fraud.

Fearing legal trouble, she sent Rs 11.80 lakh to nine bank accounts, including those in UCO Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, and Axis Bank.

Tulasi filed a complaint on August 12.

The West Cybercrime Police have launched a probe and are seeking bank details to track the money.

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

"The crime happened over several weeks as the scamsters stayed in touch with the victim. The public should be cautious since lotteries are banned in Karnataka.

Drug menace near colleges on the rise

Data presented after MLA raises issue in colleges in his constituency

Year	Cases booked	Amount of drugs seized (in kg)
2023	43	89.047
2024	28	153.272
2025 (till July)	13	27.038

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru police have booked 28 cases in 2024 and seized nearly 153 kg of drugs, including ganja, MDMA and cocaine, from around educational institutions in the city.

This indicates that the sale of drugs to college students is rampant in Bengaluru.

The seizures almost doubled from 2023, when 43 cases led to the recovery of 89 kilograms of contraband. So far, in 2025, 13 cases have been registered and 27 kg seized.

The data was presented in the Legislative Assembly in response to Yelahanka MLA SR Vishwanath, who flagged rampant drug sales near colleges in his constituency.

While the police claimed they are keeping a close watch, college authorities and parents disagreed.

A faculty member from a college in Yelahanka said, "We have been creating awareness among students. However, we have seen students taking drugs very close to campus, which means it is easily available."

Home Minister G Parameshwara, in a written reply, said that a number of measures had been put in place to prevent the sale of drugs around educational institutions.

He said that drugs are mostly brought from Maharashtra, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. "We are working with the police in these states to prevent the entry of drugs through these routes," a senior officer said.

Police are also monitoring border districts, including Bidar, Bengaluru Rural, Raichur and Kolar. Awareness drives have been held in 9,000 institutions, covering nearly 15 lakh students.

64-year-old man run over at Jayanagar TTMC

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 64-year-old man died while trying to board a moving BMTC bus at the Jayanagar TTMC in southern Bengaluru around 9 am on Wednesday, officials said.

This was the third fatal accident involving BMTC buses this month.

The deceased was identified as Sampangi, a daily wage worker from KR Market. He is survived by his wife and three children.

The police said the driver — Madhwaraj, 46 — did not notice Sampangi trying to board the e-bus from the front door and had switched it off.

Sampangi's hand got stuck between the door slides, and he fell down. The bus ran him over, and he died on the spot, the police added.

A senior BMTC official said that the driver had already closed the central sliding door as the bus departed from the TTMC.

"The driver was about to close the front door, too, when the deceased suddenly came in the opposite direction. The driver did not notice this," the official told *DH*.

According to the official, drivers are usually trained to focus on the front right-side during the journey.

The BMTC will pay Sampangi's family a compensation of Rs 1 lakh, he added.

The driver may be suspended for six months, if a preliminary inquiry finds that he was negligent.

During suspension, he will receive 50% of his gross pay as subsistence allowance. He may also face a departmental inquiry, resulting in him losing up to three increments or being dismissed from service, the official explained.

Third fatal BMTC bus crash in just 8 days

A senior BMTC official conceded that buses were involved in three fatal accidents in the past week, but maintained that drivers did not appear to be at fault in any.

On August 13, a two-wheeler rider died after coming under the front wheels of a BMTC bus on Hosur Main Road in Roopena Agrahara.

A BMTC official said the victim had tried to overtake the bus from the left, but was struck by an oncoming car. He fell down and came under the bus.

On August 19, a 37-year-old scooter rider died while trying to overtake a BMTC bus in Sadashivanagar, but was struck by an oncoming car. "Our bus was on the left lane and was going slow," he stated.

OPEN CONVERSATIONS

'Dying with dignity' campaigner seeks more empathetic laws

BARKHA KUMARI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The 'Good To Go — Death Literacy Festival', slated for this weekend, confronts what most people avoid — open conversations about end-of-life planning and patient autonomy.

Dr Roop Gursahani

Advance Care Planning (ACP) is already established in the UK, Australia, Singapore, Taiwan and the US, and is now finding takers in India.

The Advance Care Planning Collective is one of the teams behind the two-day festival in Bengaluru. *DH* spoke to its cofounder, Dr Roop Gursahani, consultant neurologist who's part of the 'dying with dignity' movement in India.

ACP is the process by which individuals discuss and set their preferences for future medical care, in case they are unable to make decisions later. This can range from withdrawing a ventilator at a certain stage to choosing to donate organs.

The first step in ACP is appointing a healthcare representative.

According to Dr Gursahani, an immediate family member (parent, spouse or sibling) typically becomes the default or surrogate decision maker. But with no legal framework in India, this can lead to conflicts. It gets more complicated when relationships are strained, and when the individual belongs to the LGBTQIA+ community and lacks family support.

"As a workaround, we recommend designating a healthcare representative, whether from within the family or outside it," he says. Up to three can be named in the order of preference.

The second step is drafting an Advance Medical Directive (AMD). Also called a living will, it is a quasi-legal document that outlines a person's medical care preferences.

In 2018, the Supreme Court recognised AMD, and in 2023, it modified guidelines to ease the process. But Dr Gursahani flags a caveat: "Judgements are not laws. Unless we have laws that make AMDs enforceable, we are still in a grey zone."

He explains: "No one can be treated against their wishes. So an awake, alert, aware patient can refuse even life-saving treatment, risking death. However, when the patient cannot communicate, it is the AMD that speaks for them. But a doctor still has the final discretion of accepting or refusing the AMD."

Public awareness is necessary so that citizens can push policymakers to make the living will legally binding, he adds.

Dr Gursahani says end-of-life planning can begin across three phases.

The first is for healthy individuals who want to prepare for sudden, severe brain damage. The second is for those in their 50s and 60s diagnosed with early-stage chronic illnesses, like kidney failure or cancer. The third is for those likely in their final years, such as patients with lung or heart failure.

Despite death and dying being taboo topics, India is increasingly embracing the end-of-life conversation, he notes. The Living Will Information Counter at the Government Medical College Hospital in Kollam, and the Living Will Clinic at Mumbai's P D Hinduja Hospital, where Dr Gursahani works, have seen significant turnouts from patients and families.

He believes rural India will be even more receptive, since people there are more practical about medical costs and life's finality. "In cities, we become disconnected from death; seeing it as something that happens in hospitals, behind ICU walls. In rural areas, many die at home," he says.

Event details

The event will be held on Saturday and Sunday at the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. For details, visit @goodtogo_deathliteracy on Instagram.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Documentary screening and discussion: 'My Radio My Life'; Makarand Waikar, Simantinee Bhagwat, and GM Shirahatti to speak; Bangalore International Center, Domlur; 6.30 pm,

Dr Jeevaraj Alva memorial awards ceremony: Inauguration by S Nanjundarao; Organised by Akhila Karnataka Makkala Koota, Chamarajpet; 3.30 pm.

Book release: Of 25 books by women authors; Purushottam Bilimale and Vijayalakshmi Balekundri to take part; Organised by Annapoorna Publishing House; Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Chamarajpet; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Play: '36 Sati Savitri Nivasa'; Directed by Karthik Hebbar; Seetha Kote, Deepika P Aradhya, Murali Sreeram and others to perform; Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; 7.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	27.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	79%
Sunset (Aug 21)	6:38 pm
Sunrise (Aug 22)	6:08 am
Moonrise	3:08 am
Moonset	4:31 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao speaks in the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

Health dept to fill 230 vacancies of doctors

BENGALURU, DHNS: Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundurao informed the Legislative Council on Wednesday that the department will soon initiate recruitment to fill over 230 posts for doctors and 1,300 Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs).

A day after the cabinet discussed on the internal reservation among SCs, the minister said, "With the state government deciding on the internal reservation we will now start recruitment at various primary healthcare centres." He was speaking during the presentation of the Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Medical Officers and Other Staff) Amendment Bill 2025.

Supplementary estimates of Rs 3,352 cr tabled

BENGALURU, DHNS: Supplementary estimates, aggregating Rs 3,352.57 crore, were tabled in the Assembly on Wednesday.

They are additional expenditures incurred by the government over and above the budget provisions. This includes Rs 10 crore that the government spent on Sadhana Samavesha organised in Vijayanagar district to mark two years of Congress in power.

The government has regularised payment of Rs 4.99 crore towards outstanding bills in court cases against Dreams of Fountains Pvt Ltd (formerly Chilume Enterprises and DAP Hombale) pertaining to 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

The supplementary estimates also provide for Rs 3.81 crore for purchase of new vehicles for lawmakers, including Opposition Chief Whip and Leader of the Opposition in the Council. The government spent Rs 3.69 crore for Cabinet meeting at Nandi Hills. The supplementary estimates also provide for reimbursement of bills worth Rs 2.3 crore to senior advocate Kapil Sibal and other special counsels.

E-khata in Bengaluru may be Rs 10k-cr scam, says Ashoka

'Govt collected Rs 56k cr in taxes, but there's no devpt'

IN THE ASSEMBLY

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka claimed that the e-khata drive in Bengaluru could be a scam worth Rs 10,000 crore.

Ashoka said this during a debate he initiated in the Assembly on "lack of development" under the Congress.

"This e-Khata has become a burden for people. Citizens are being charged Rs 12,000 for a one-time khata. I have information about a case in which one person received one-time password (OTP) 150 times," Ashoka, who represents Padmanabhanagar in the city, said. "The e-Khata should have been simple," he said.

Ashoka accused the Congress government of not delivering on development, despite imposing huge levies on citizens.

"This government has collected Rs 56,422 crore in taxes from citizens since coming to power. It is tax terrorism. Still, the state hasn't seen any development. So, where did the money go?" Ashoka said.

He said the government had hiked prices of fuel, milk, water, power, liquor, fares of bus tickets, Namma Metro, guidance value, stamp duty and motor vehicles taxes.

"Have you (government) completed any irrigation project? Have you started any new college? Without any development, you're just an empty box making noise," Ashoka charged, adding that Congress MLAs themselves had criticised the government over lack of development.

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah certainly has a blackspot when it comes to providing development grants," Ashoka said, accusing the government of "cheating" people. "Do development or go home," he said.

Ashoka recalled statements made by Congress leaders B R Patil, Raju Kage, G Parameshwara and D K Shivakumar on the government's finances and functioning. "These are people who should have defended the government," he said.

Referring to Siddaramaiah's promise of providing each Congress MLA a grant of Rs 50 crore, Ashoka said Opposition lawmakers must not be discriminated against. "If the grant is provided at all, it must be equal for all," he said.

Training his guns at Shivakumar, the deputy chief minister and incharge of Bengaluru, Ashoka said Vidhana Soudha's vicinity itself had 1,500 potholes.

"He is the pied piper leading Bengalureans into a pit," he said, mocking Shivakumar's 'Brand Bengaluru' initiative.

'3rd in bad cities' list'

"Bus speeds are down to 9 km from 15 km due to potholes. Bengaluru is now ranked third globally in the list of bad cities," Ashoka said.

Quota in education for orphaned kids under spl category

BENGALURU, DHNS

Congress' Nayana Motamma speaks during the monsoon session of the Legislative Assembly.

The government will take steps towards providing reservation in education to orphaned children by treating them as a special category, Women & Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar said in the Assembly on Wednesday.

The minister was responding to a question by Mudigere Congress MLA Nayana Motamma on hardships faced by orphaned kids in obtaining Aadhaar and other documents.

"For the purpose of education, it's a must for children to provide Aadhaar and other details. It's not possible for orphans to give Aadhaar. They won't have a birth certificate and details of their parents," Nayana said, adding that she knows of the problems as she is the director of an orphanage that has 138 children. "We need to secure the future of such children," she said.

Karnataka has 17,049 orphaned children (9,175 boys and 7,874 girls) in 712 orphanages registered under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, Hebbalkar said.

"At present, we're considering orphaned children under the general category for higher education admissions," Hebbalkar said. "We proposed twice to the social welfare department including these children in the SC/ST list. But this was rejected," she said. She also pointed out that the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes under K Jayaprakash Hegde recommended including such children under OBC Category-1.

Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa maintained that Hebbalkar's suggestion cannot be implemented. Congress lawmaker P M Narendraswamy pointed out that only the Union government could make inclusions to the SC/ST list.

Nayana said the government must consider something on the lines of 1% reservation provided to specially-abled children.

Hebbalkar said her department would move towards creating a special reservation category for orphaned children.

Earlier, responding to Nayana's concerns, Hebbalkar said her department issues birth certificates to orphan kids. "On the day of their admission, we get a medical examiner to certify their age," she said. "Also, Aadhaar cards are being issued by designating deputy commissioners as superintendent guardians," she added.

STRATEGY TALK?

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah discusses a point with Cabinet colleagues Byrathi Suresh and N S Boseraju in the Legislative Council on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

SC/ST funds' 'diversion': Minister to penalise depts

Oppn slams minister over 'diverting' Rs 13.43K cr for guarantee schemes

BENGALURU, DHNS

Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa speaks during a debate on SC/ST funds in the Legislative Assembly.

Attacked by the opposition for using SC/ST funds in the 'guarantee' schemes, Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa assured the Assembly on Wednesday that he would invoke penal provisions against departments that do not furnish data on beneficiaries.

The minister said this after the BJP and JD(S) went after the minister over the use of Rs 13,433.84 crore from the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP-TSP) to implement the 'guarantee' schemes in the current year.

Raising the issue during Question Hour, Holalkere BJP MLA M Chandrappa criticised the social welfare department for 'diversion' of SCSP-TSP funds.

Karkala MLA V Sunil Kumar said the SCSP-TSP law does not allow funds to be used for general schemes. "How then did you use the SCSP-TSP money for guarantee schemes? For the Shakti scheme, you've used Rs 1,537 crore. How did you identify women commuters as SC/ST?" he asked.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka warned Mahadevappa, an SC himself, against earning a black mark over 'diversion' of SC/ST funds. "If we had done this, they (Congress) would have driven us away. How dare you do this with Dalit money?" he said, adding that SCSP-TSP funds were used for inspection bungalows.

Mahadevappa ruled out 'diversion' of SCSP-TSP funds.

"There was a provision for 'deemed expenditure' using which the previous BJP government spent Rs 8,000 crore. Even our government spent Rs 4,000 crore. We have removed this clause," he said.

In the current fiscal, Rs 42,017.51 crore is available under SCSP-TSP across 34 departments.

"Under Section 7C of the law, the money must go to SC/ST beneficiaries of common schemes. The Act itself provides for this," Mahadevappa said. "Even the Centre is using SCSP-TSP money in mining and power sectors. States like MP, Gujarat and UPare using SCSP-TSP money for different programmes," he said.

The minister said all departments have been "strictly" asked to furnish details of SC/ST beneficiaries under various programmes. "In case of excess allocation, the departments must surrender the money, which will be re-appropriated," he said. "If details aren't provided, I'll invoke penal clauses."

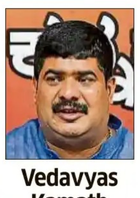
BJP's Suresh Kumar said Mahadevappa was advocating a "hopeless" case. To this, he said: "If there's anything against my conscience, I won't be sitting here."

H C MAHADEVAPPA
Social welfare minister

"Under Section 7C of the law, the money must go to SC/ST beneficiaries of common schemes. The Act itself provides for this. Even the Centre is using SCSP-TSP money in mining and power sectors. States like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh are using SCSP-TSP money for different programmes.

Religious events: BJP MLAs slam police 'trouble'

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP lawmakers, especially from coastal districts, complained in the Assembly on Wednesday that the police were causing "trouble" during Hindu festivals and traditional events by citing rule violations on using sound systems and timings.



Vedavyas Kamath

Raising this in Zero Hour, BJP's Vedavyas Kamath said Dakshina Kannada has several religious sites where traditional events like Yakshagana, Kola, Nemotsava and Rathotsava are held. Festivals like Krishna Janmashtami, Ganeshotsava and Navaratri are also held, he added.

Kamath said the police seized sound systems at multiple locations during recent Janmashtami celebrations citing excess noise levels. He said cases were filed against organisers and equipment owners.

Apparently, no religious events can be held after 10 pm due to orders by the government and the court. Kamath said such restrictions were not enforced when BJP was in power. "But after Congress came to power, issues have arisen over holding Hindu events," he charged. This led to a din as Congress members objected.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka said that events such as Kola, Urus and Christmas celebrations are held at night in coastal districts.

BJP's Bharath Shetty said restrictions were causing "mental stress" to people. "Police are asking processions to wind up by 11.30 pm, which is impossible". Sunil Kumar (BJP) flagged an Education Department circular on the basis of which schools were being denied permission to instal Ganesha idols.

P M Narendraswamy (Cong) said BJP MLAs had earlier sought restrictions on loudspeakers at mosques. BJP's C N Ashwath Narayan said: "Is government ready to stop sound systems during Azaan? If so, we will fully support it."

Responding, Chaluvarayaswamy said election campaigns, meetings, traditional events and use of sound systems were not allowed after 10 pm. "But, in some taluks, events are being allowed. If such events cause law-and-order issues, police will act," he said.

CAG flags Rs 258.8-crore 'irregular spending' by construction workers' board

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board undertook "irregular expenditure" of Rs 258.8 crore with "several lapses" towards preventive health training and checkup for 8.49 lakh workers, Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) has found.

The CAG's performance audit report on the welfare of building and other construction workers was tabled in the Assembly on Wednesday.

The "unauthorised expenditure" happened when BJP was in power. In July 2020, during Covid-19 pandemic, the Board proposed to the Cabinet preventive health training and checkup for five lakh registered construction workers. The finance department returned it, seeking detailed proposal.

In December 2020, the Board proposed entrusting the programme to three agencies (PCMH, Hindustan Latex Ltd and Apollo Clinic), without following tender process. This, too, was rejected by finance department for want of justification on bypassing tender process.

The Board's secretary, in April 2021, sent a fresh proposal to labour department to call for tenders to empanel agencies for one year and sought approval to implement the programme on pilot basis in Dharwad at Rs 8.86 crore.

Instead of inviting tenders, the Board split the work into 30 individual projects to "circumvent the need for a Cabinet approval".

These projects were approved post-facto by the Board in June 2022, by quoting an order providing tender exemption during the first and second Covid waves for the supply of food and ration kits to labourers. "Thus, award of contracts from September 2021 to May 2022 in contravention of the Act/Rules resulted in irregular expenditure of Rs 258.8 crore," the CAG said.

Ineligible workers

The audit found that 42.5 lakh registered beneficiaries were "inadequately validated" before being entered into the database. Applications submitted on the Seva Sindhu portal for registration and renewal of beneficiaries lacked employment details.

"As a result, ineligible workers like tailors, clerks weavers and other professions were registered as construction workers and availed benefits," the CAG said.

The Board released Rs 433.89 crore to the Karnataka Slum Development Board and Rs 8.74 crore to the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Ltd for a housing scheme without obtaining beneficiary list or details. The CAG said the Board did not have an internal audit wing to ensure compliance with rules and proper maintenance of registers.

YEAR-WISE DATA & COMPENSATION			
Year	Cases reported	Ex-gratia paid to	Ex-gratia amount
2023-24	1,250	1,082	Rs 54.10 cr
2024-25	1,082	920	Rs 40.75 cr
2025-26 (till July)	**84**	**65**	**Rs 3.25 cr**

State sees dip in farmer suicides from last 2 years

84 instances reported in last seven months

BENGALURU, DHNS

The number of farmers ending life by suicide has decreased in the current year, compared to the last two years.

In the last seven months, 84 cases of farmer suicides have been reported. In 2024, the number was 1,082 and in 2023 it was 1,250. However, of the 84 cases, the government has identified only 65 cases eligible for the ex-gratia.

This data was tabled by the Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda as part of his written reply to a question by JD(S) MLA Manju H T in the Legislative Assembly. Even in the Legislative Council, BJP member Hemalatha Nayak raised the issue and urged the government to consider to introduce loan waiver scheme for farmers.

As per the details available, Haveri witnessed highest number of farmer suicide cases with 260 between 2023 and 2025 (till July end). This was followed by Belagavi with 218, Kalaburagi - 206, Dharwad -172 and Mysuru - 166 cases.

In the current year, of the 31 district half of them have recorded zero farmer suicide cases. However, Kalaburagi has recorded 14 cases and Chikkamagaluru 12, while rest of the districts have recorded single digit cases. For example, Bagalkot which recorded 31 cases in the last two years has reported 9 cases this year and Belagavi which had reported 118 and 91 cases during 2023 and 2024 respectively has reported 8 cases.

According to officials from the department, good rainfall compared to previous years could also be the reason for fall in farmers suicide cases.

The minister stated that in the last three years the state government had spent Rs 98.10 crore to pay ex-gratia to the families of the deceased. This year, till July-end, the government has paid Rs 3.25 crore as ex-gratia. In 2023, the total compensation paid was Rs 54.10 crore and in 2024 the amount was Rs 40.75 crore.

JD(S) thwarts BJP's plans to defeat amendment to bill on lakes

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP's plans to get the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2025 defeated in the Council on Wednesday were foiled owing to lack of support from alliance partner JD(S), members of which spoke in favour of the legislation.

BJP member C T Ravi expressed reservations over the proposed amendment to reduce the buffer zone of lakes in the Council on Wednesday.

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Council and senior BJP leader Chalavadi T Narayanaswamy, former minister C T Ravi, N Ravi Kumar, Hemalatha Nayak led the saffron party's charge against the bill, expressing reservations over proposed changes to revising the buffer zones for lakes. However, JD(S) MLCs T A Sharavana, Javarayee Gowda and Vivekananda welcomed the bill, much to the BJP's dismay.

Piloting the bill, passed by the Assembly on Tuesday, Minister for Minor Irrigation N S Boseraju informed the Council that, against the existing provision of fixing the buffer zone of lakes universally at 30m, the amendment proposed calculating the buffer zone of each lake separately, according to its boundaries.

"For lakes equal to or smaller than five guntas, the buffer zone will be 0m, while it will be fixed at 3m for lakes spanning five guntas to one acre; for lakes spread across one to ten acres, the buffer zone will be 6m, 12m for those spread across 10 to 25 acres, and 24m for lakes spanning an area between 25 and 100 acres. For lakes larger than 100 acres, the buffer zone will be 30m. However, we will not cede even one foot in the buffer zone to private entities, and it will be used only for infrastructure development," said Boseraju.

Chalavadi said that reduction in the area of buffer zones would ultimately destroy the lakes. "Flooding in Bengaluru is largely the consequence of encroachment of lakes. Reducing the buffer zone will only aggravate the problem," said the LoP.

Chalavadi's party colleague Ravi, meanwhile, accused the Congress government of coming under pressure from the real estate mafia. "This is in violation of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) order that mandates a buffer zone of 50m," said Ravi, reminding the Congress that the BJP government had not succumbed to pressure from the real estate sector.

Rubbishing Ravi's claims of 'suitcases' from the real estate sector prompting the government's decisions, Boseraju said, "You may have experience with that, but not us. Also, the NGT cannot dictate the state government."

Police check for staff at app-based companies planned

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday told the Assembly that he would issue an order, after obtaining a legal opinion, mandating app-based companies to submit details of their employees to jurisdictional police.

He was replying to a calling-attention motion by Bommanahalli BJP MLA Satish Reddy, who raised the recent kidnapping and murder of 13-year-old Nischith, a resident of his constituency. Reddy said the prime accused, Gurumurthy, was associated with the on-demand driver platform DriveU.

"Gurumurthy had been booked for raping a 13-year-old girl in 2020 and was jailed. He somehow came out and joined DriveU," Reddy said, adding that the accused came in contact with Nischith and his parents through his job. "How did someone with such a criminal background get employed without police verification?" he asked.

Reddy demanded that police verification be made mandatory for workers in app-based platforms.

Oppn walks out as Speaker refuses to allow debate on internal quota

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Opposition BJP-JD(S) walked out of the Assembly on Wednesday after Speaker U T Khader didn't allow them to ask questions about Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's statement on internal reservation.

After the CM's statement, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka sought to initiate a discussion. However, the CM and the Speaker explained that a discussion wasn't possible after a statement.

As the CM got up to go to the Legislative Council, where he was to make the same statement, BJP members said he was "running away".

Responding strongly to these allegations, he said: "Forty two years have passed in my political career. There's no question of running away out of fear of the Opposition. I am not at all afraid of you". After this, he left for the Council.

When the Speaker continued to deny permission to speak, BJP's Karkala MLA Sunil Kumar referred to Rule 345 in the Assembly rule book, saying, though discussions cannot happen on statements, questions can be allowed, if accepted.

Responding to this, both Khader and Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said the rule mentions that it is the Speaker's prerogative to allow such questions.

BJP's Suresh Kumar, a former law minister, said the rules of "natural justice" mandated accepting questions from the Opposition.

Khader explained that allowing questions would mean that the chief minister would have to respond back, who had by then gone to the Council. The Speaker remained unfazed and reiterated his positions even as the Opposition accused him of favouring the Congress.

In the Council, the Opposition sought to ask questions about the issue. However, Chairman Basavaraj Horatti said he cannot "insist" on the CM to provide a clarification. Following chaos, Horatti adjourned the House.

Souharda Co-operative (Amendment) Bill defeated in Legislative Council

'This will go down as a black mark in history of the House'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Alliance partners BJP and JD(S) were successful in getting the Karnataka Souharda Co-Operative (Amendment) Bill, 2025 defeated in the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

Before Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti called for a vote on the bill, the proposed amendments proposed to the existing law were extensively debated, with Karnataka Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil offering clarification on several points of contention raised by members of the two opposition parties.

Ultimately, the government was able to secure only 23 votes in favour of the bill, while 26 members voted against it.

Patil did not conceal his displeasure over the outcome of the vote.

"This will not bring any honour to the house. This decision will go down as a black mark in the history of the Council. Opposition members, instead of indulging in politics, should have voted in accordance with their conscience," said the minister.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil issued a clarification on nearly all points raised by members on the Karnataka Souharda Co-Operative (Amendment) Bill, 2025 before it was put to a vote in the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

In fact, Patil took exception to the bill having been put to vote. "Every query that was raised about the bill was answered," said Patil.

Although Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and other Cabinet ministers were present in the house, absence of MLCs of the ruling party led to the bill's defeat on the floor of the House on Wednesday, much to the government's embarrassment.

The opposition did, however, concede that they had no issue with the intent of the bill, while expressing objections over some of its provisions.

Opposition's points of contention

- The proposal that all co-operative societies reserve 20% of their deposits in liquid form as proposed under Clauses 2(Z) and 17B
- Designation of co-operative societies' assets as 'statutory liquid asset' would make them government property, which is not appropriate
- The stipulation that each co-operative society invest in scheduled banks only after obtaining prior approval from the registrar
- The existing Section 18 of the bill is unexceptionable, and any amendment to the section must allow investment in government securities and co-operative banks
- Practical difficulties of annual declaration
- Clause 33 (1A) mandates audit of co-operative societies once every three years, while it should ideally be made compulsory only once every five years

Naseer Ahmed's 'Vote Chor' remark on PM sparks midnight uproar in Council

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tensions flared in the Council late Wednesday night as BJP members, led by Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, staged a protest in the well of the House, strongly objecting to controversial remarks made by Congress member and chief minister's advisor Naseer Ahmed against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Naseer Ahmed

During a heated midnight debate, Ahmed repeatedly referred to PM Modi as a "fraud" and "vote chor" (vote thief), sparking immediate outrage from the Opposition.

BJP members condemned the language used and demanded that Ahmed issue an apology on the floor of the House.

Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti intervened, stating that such remarks were unparliamentary and should be expunged from the official records. However, the intervention failed to restore order, as protests continued.

Despite mounting pressure, Ahmed stood by his comments, claiming they were factual and refusing to retract them. He insisted he had not spoken against any individual specifically, further intensifying the standoff.

Chairman Horatti then directed Leader of the House, N S Boseraju, to instruct Ahmed to withdraw his statements.

However, Ahmed remained defiant, maintaining that he had merely stated the truth.

The protest continued beyond midnight. After repeated instructions by Horatti, Ahmed insisted that he was not regreting by heart but orally just to satisfy the Opposition members.

Welfare bills passed unanimously in Council

BENGALURU, DHNS

Multiple welfare legislations – the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, and the Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill – passed unanimously in the Council on Wednesday, with opposition parties voicing no reservations.

Piloting the Devadasi legislation, Woman and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar expressed concern over the disturbing rise in the number of Devadasis in Karnataka over the years. While the number stood at around 22,000 in 2006-7, it has risen to 43,000 currently. "The numbers are based on outdated data and the government has commissioned a fresh survey so we have accurate figures at hand. Heightened awareness may have prompted those who had hitherto not registered as Devadasis to do now," Laxmi said.

However, the BJP voiced its reservations on the Karnataka Co-Operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2025. BJP's Chief Whip in the Upper House N Ravikumar pointed out that, while the party strongly favoured reservation for members of SC/ST communities and women, it felt it should be done through proper electoral processes.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said the government is introducing the legislation to ensure the appointment of members from SC/ST communities and women to the posts of chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the societies.

He noted that the primary objective of the bill is to ensure that members from the SC/ST communities are appointed as chairpersons and vice-chairpersons in cooperative societies.

URS AWARD

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presents the D Devaraj Urs award to socialist leader Kalle Shivottam Rao at the 110th birth anniversary programme of the former chief minister in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Cong govt more corrupt: Contractors' association

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: Karnataka State Contractors' Association President S R Manjunath on Wednesday alleged the Congress government is "more corrupt" than its predecessor, accusing ministers of favouring select contractors.

Speaking at a convention, he charged Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh with floating tenders that benefit a few close contractors while sidelining others. Manjunath said projects meant for Shivamogga are tendered in Bengaluru, a practice contractors have opposed.

He claimed the government owes contractors over Rs 32,000 crore across nine departments. Recalling the BJP regime's 40% commission, he alleged rates are now even higher.

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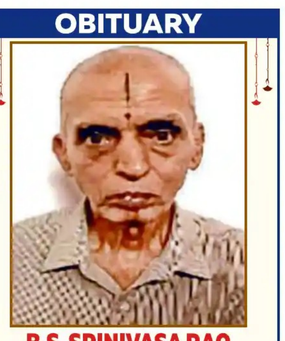

B.S. SRINIVASA RAO
DOB : 24.10.1943 - DOD: 18.08.2025
Deeply mourned by:
Family & Friends
"Om Shanti"

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

M. Sanath Kumar
Rtd. Assistant Commissioner G.S.T. & Customs
DOD: 21-08-2024
Deeply missed always remembered from
M. Krishna Murthy & Family Members

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PERSONAL

Lost

LOST
I, M. Nagaraj, residing at Belathur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Kodugodi Post Bengalore East Taluk, Bangalore-560067, have lost my Original General Power of Attorney, Document / Identification No. (BK-IV282/2012-2013), Partition Deed Document / Identification No. (17870/2018-19), Sharing Agreement Document / Identification : No. (7297/2012-2013), Kadugodi, Bangalore while in shifting the house. Finders please Contact No: 6364147138

Change of Name

I, SHAKER KESHAV IYANGER, residing at Bengaluru-91, have changed my name as SHAKER KESHAV IYENGAR, vide affidavit dated 20/08/2025 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

I, NITHILA ASHOK, D/o Ashok Babu Thangaraj, aged about 19 years, Residing at No.4043,Casa Serenita Sobha City,Thanisandra Main Road, R.K. Hegede Nagar, Bengaluru-560077. Have Changed my Name NITHILA ASHOK BABU to NITHILA ASHOK vide affidavit Dated:24.07.2025 before Notary K.V.Mani,Bengaluru.

I, DWARAKA S/o Jairamalu have changed my name to DWARAKA J vide affidavit dated: 20/8/2025 Before Notary Shreeshail B.Gobbani Bangalore

DOCUMENT LOST
I, Manjula W/o. Mallesh Nagarbhavi, Mudulpalya, Sanjeevini Nagar, 3rd Main Road, No 71. Bangalore 72 have lost original sale deed document No. BK_I 2932/2016/17, Survey No. 15/1 katha No. 186 site No. 36 Kubarahalli, Bangalore-560090 While in Transit. Finders Please Contact : 8197105738

CHANGE OF NAME
I, DEESHA PHUTANE D/o Gnandev Phutane, residing at No.155, Jakkasandra Block, 8th Main Road, 3rd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560034, have changed my name to DEESHA GNANDEV PHUTANE vide affidavit dated 18-08-2025 sworn before advocate and notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE NOTICE I, Suraj Shivaji Kathare, aged 27 years, S/o Shivaji Kathare, residing at Aland, Kalaburagi District, Karnataka, state that my name has been recorded as "Suraj Shivaji" in some of my educational documents. My correct name is "Suraj Shivaji Kathare" and henceforth I shall be known by this name for all official and legal purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SOPHIA, residing at # 88, 4th Cross, G.R. Homes, Meenakshi Layout, Rayasandra, Hosa Road, Bengaluru-560099, have changed my name to SOPHIA CYRIL VINCENT vide affidavit dated 04.08.2025 before notary V Rangaraju, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called SOPHIA CYRIL VINCENT only

I, MANI R/at No.10, 9th Cross, Kanshiramnagar, Vidyarnyapura Post Bangalore- 560097, have changed my name to MANI.R vide affidavit dated: 20/8/2025 Before Notary Renuka.C Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ARCHISHA D/o Anil Kumar residing at No. E/279/201, Maithri Residency, 11th Main, 5th Cross, Malleshapalaya New Thippsandra Post Bengaluru-560075, have changed my name to ARCHISHA MAURYA vide affidavit dated 06.08.2025 before notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed., Bengaluru.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN
This is to inform the general public that we have cancelled both the agreement to sale dated 06.02.2024, general power of attorney dated 25.10.2024 and the supplementary agreement of sale dated 25.10.2024 with Mr. R. Ranga Prasad, Proprietor, M/s. Saar Assets Management on 07/08/2025 with respect to the following schedule property:
ITEM NO. 1:
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being non-agricultural undeveloped converted land situated in Sy. No. 170/5 of Hulikere Gunnur Village, Kailancha Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, measuring 05 acres 26 guntas and bounded on the:
East by : Land in Sy. No.160, West by : Land in Sy. No.170/4, North by : Land in Sy. No.203, South by : Land in Sy. No.169.
ITEM NO. 2:
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being non-agricultural undeveloped converted land situated in Sy. No. 170/3 of Hulikere Gunnur Village, Kailancha Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, measuring 11 guntas and bounded on the:
East by : Land in Sy. No.170/4, West by : Land in Sy. No.170/2, North by : Land in Sy. No.203, South by : Land in Sy. No.170/6.
ITEM NO. 3:
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being non-agricultural undeveloped converted land situated in Sy. No. 170/4 of Hulikere Gunnur Village, Kailancha Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, measuring 02 acres and bounded on the:
East by : Land in Sy. No.170/5, West by : Land in Sy. No.170/6, North by : Land in Sy. No.203, South by : Land in Sy. No.168/2.
ITEM NO. 4:
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being non-agricultural undeveloped converted land situated in Old Sy. No.168, Re-Sy. No.168/2 of Hulikere Gunnur Village, Kailancha Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, measuring 03 acres and bounded on the:
East by : Land in Sy. No.169, West by : Land in Sy. No.172 & 173, North by: Land in Sy. No.170/2 & 6, South by: Land in Sy. No.168/1.
ITEM NO. 5:
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being non-agricultural undeveloped converted lands situated in Sy. No. 368/1, measuring 01 acre 15 guntas, situated at Hulikere Gunnur Village, Kailancha Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and bounded on the:
East by : Land in Sy. No.203, West by : Land in Sy. No.368/3, North by : Land in Sy.No.209, South by : Oni &Land in Sy. No.170/2 & 3.
ITEM NO. 6:
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being non-agricultural undeveloped converted lands situated in Sy. No. 368/3, measuring 01 acre 29¼ guntas, situated at Hulikere Gunnur Village, Kailancha Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and bounded on the:
East by : Land in Sy. No.368/1, West by : Land in Sy. No.368/2, North by : Road & Land in Sy.No.209, South by : Oni & Land in Sy. No.170/2 & 3.
ITEM NO. 7:
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being non-agricultural undeveloped converted land situated in Sy. No. 170/3, Re-Sy. No.170/6 of Hulikere Gunnur Village, Kailancha Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, measuring 04 acres 13 guntas and bounded on the:
East by : Land in Sy. No.170/4, West by : Land in Sy. No.170/2 & 168/2, North by : Land in Sy. No.170/3, South by : Land in Sy. No.168/2.
Please note, any transaction that would be done with Mr. R. Ranga Prasad, Proprietor, M/s. Saar Assets Management is at your own sole cost and risk and that we Kodanda Ram P and Bharathi. B would not be held responsible for the same.
Kodanda Ram P & Bharathi B

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TP polls: Cong wins two ULBs, suffers setback in Vemgal

KALABURAGI/BENGALURU, DHNS: The results of the much-anticipated elections to five town panchayats (TPs) on Wednesday. The Congress clinched two urban local bodies - Kalagi and Kadaba. The ruling party, however, suffered a setback in Vemgal-Kurugal town panchayat in Kolar district, where BJP-JD(S) combine registered a convincing win.

Of the 17 wards in Vemgal-Kurugal panchayat, the BJP-JD(S) combine won in 10 wards. The Congress managed to win six wards, while an independent emerged victorious in one ward.

Vemgal-Kurugal panchayat saw its first election to the TP after the gram panchayat was upgraded. The elections to Vemgal TP was seen as a prestige battle between Kothur Manjunath and MLC M L Anil Kumar of Congress and Varthur Prakash and C M R Srinath of BJP-JD(S) combine.

At Kharges' home district of Kalaburagi, Congress managed to stave off a stiff challenge from BJP to win Kalagi TP polls. The Congress won six of 11 seats, while BJP bagged 5.

In Kadaba, Dakshina Kannada, Congress recorded a resounding win in TP elections. The party clinched eight out of 13 wards, while BJP won in five wards. The BJP managed to win Ajjampur TP polls, with six out of 11 wards.

Voters of Rattihalli T (Haveri district) gave a fractured mandate. The Congress emerged single largest party, winning seven seats in the 15-member House.

The Congress won the bye-election to a ward in Sirwar TP, while BJP managed to clinch a ward in Nidagundi TP that went to bypoll. An independent won a bypoll to a ward in Ugar Khurd TMC.

Man from Maddur claims to be complainant's colleague, says charges not true

MADDUR (MANDYA DISTRICT), DHNS

Raju from Maddur taluk, a friend of the complainant-witness, said on Wednesday that the allegations made by the masked man were false.

The complainant's statement on burying hundreds of dead bodies at Dharmasthala is far from the truth, Raju said.

He is said to have worked alongside the complainant for four years as a civic worker (sweeper) at Dharmasthala 10 years ago.

"The allegations levelled by the complainant are far from truth. It is not right to level such charges, defaming a pilgrimage town and its custodian," Raju, a resident of Vaidyanathapura in the taluk told reporters here.

He said he was inquired by the Special Investigation Team in connection with the Dharmasthala case for more than half an hour.

"I have provided them all the information I know. I and the complainant worked near the bathing ghat of Dharmasthala, Bahubali Betta and also near the temple. We were provided food and good salary. We were neighbours there and have seen many decomposed bodies of men and women. Some were hanging on the trees. We used to bring down the bodies from the trees. But, we did not bury any of the bodies. They were shifted through ambulances," he said.

"I don't know why he has made such allegations. He may levelled such charges for money's sake. Nobody told us to bury any of the unidentified bodies. We have not buried any corpse without police permission," Raju said.

Burnt body of student found; suspect in custody

CHITRADURGA, DHNS

A day after the partially burnt remains of a 19-year-old girl were found on a farm abutting National Highway-48 in Gonur in Hiriyur taluk, police have arrested a 21-year-old man in connection with her death.

The victim, Harshitha (name changed), a second-year BA student at the Government First-Grade College in Chitradurga, was an inmate of the Social Welfare Department hostel in the town. Incidentally, Harshitha had obtained leave from her college four days ago to visit her home. However, her parents grew worried when she never made it home.

On Tuesday, a burnt corpse was found on the farm running alongside the national highway in Gonur. Having ascertained that the victim was Harshitha, police also found that she had been burnt to death after having been doused with petrol. Police subsequently took 21-year-old Chethan, a friend of Harshitha's, into custody on Wednesday.

"The body was spotted by a traveller on NH-48 who stopped his vehicle to answer a call of nature. Police were immediately alerted, and after a preliminary inquiry revealed Chethan as a possible suspect in the murder, we took him into custody. Further examination will reveal whether Harshitha was abused before her death," SP Ranjith Kumar Bandaru informed journalists.

Meanwhile, activists of the Dalit Sangarsha Samiti assembled at the Onake Obavva Circle in Chitradurga to protest the brutal murder.

Illegal mining: Govt tables bill to appoint recovery commissioner

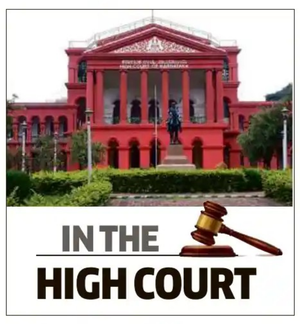
BENGALURU, DHNS: In a move to clamp down on illegal mining, the government tabled a Bill in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday that seeks to appoint a recovery commissioner to seize and attach properties derived from illegal mining activities.

As per the Karnataka Appointment of Recovery Commissioner for Seizure and Attachment of Property of Illegal Mining and Proceeds of Crime Bill, a serving or retired officer not below the rank of Additional Chief Secretary will be appointed as the recovery commissioner to supervise recovery proceedings.

The government also tabled the Karnataka Crowd Control (Managing Crowd at Events and Places of Gathering) Bill. The Bill was drafted following Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede.

K'taka to take 'conscious' decision on bike taxi policy after HC questions ban

Give it a serious thought, there are lives at stake, says court



AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government informed the High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday that a "conscious" decision will be taken at the highest level whether there should be a policy on bike taxis.

Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty stated this after a division bench headed by Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru asked whether it was a conscious decision of the state to prohibit bike taxis in the absence of a policy.

The bench orally observed: "Give it a serious thought. There are lives at stake here."

During the hearing, the Advocate General submitted that there are around six lakh bike taxis in the state, and cited congestion and safety issues for not allowing bike taxis.

At this stage, Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru orally questioned the legality of the ban on bike taxi services.

"Is there material to show that this bike taxi service is causing congestion? Is it according to you that autorickshaws cause less congestion," he asked.

The bench pointed out that bike taxi operations are permitted in 13 states and provided affordable, safe, and efficient last-mile connectivity. It further orally pointed to the protection of livelihood rights under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution and asked whether the state had made a deliberate policy decision to disallow bike taxis.

"Today, even e-bikes are not allowed. Now, a completely legitimate trade is prohibited. So long as you are permitting a service, you can regulate it. The question is whether regulation would entail complete prohibition?" the bench remarked.

At this stage, the Advocate General said that the state government would take a "conscious decision" on the issue. He added that as of now, the state is not considering framing the guidelines, but will only decide whether or not it should make a policy and if yes, then what policy.

The bench granted time till September 22 and adjourned the hearing.

The bench was hearing a batch of appeals against a single-bench order, which held that bike taxis cannot operate unless the state notifies relevant guidelines under Section 93 of the Motor Vehicles Act and the Rules.

It added that measures are always open to the state government to frame such guidelines.

Bike taxis have been banned in Karnataka since June 16, 2025.

'Regulate, don't ban'

The Bike Taxi Welfare Association applauded the court's "balanced and thoughtful observations" and reiterated its commitment to work with the government and stakeholders to ensure bike taxis operate safely, legally and sustainably, benefitting both commuters and operators. Association president Adi Narayan urged the government to develop a robust regulatory framework for bike taxis instead of imposing an outright ban.

CM announces permanent SC commission

SC commission, from Page 1

The commission has recommended 6% quota for Madigas and affiliated castes, 5% for Holeyas and affiliated castes, 4% for 'touchable' Dalits and 1% for Adi Karnataka, Adi Dravida, Adi Andhra (AK, AD and AA) communities.

Siddaramaiah explained that castes affiliated to SC (Right), such as Paraya and Moger, which had been grouped with SC (Left), will now be grouped with SC (Right) itself. He further added that AK, AD and AA communities (not original castes) will be shared amongst SC (Right) and SC (Left) communities.

The chief minister noted that categories A and D in the Das Commission had been merged due to "technical reasons". While the 59 'most backward communities' have a population of 5.22 lakh, the 'touchable' Dalit communities comprise 28.34 lakh members.

"We believe that our decision has given justice to the decades-long struggle for internal reservation," Siddaramaiah said, adding that the Cabinet has decided to withdraw cases against internal reservation activists. He felt the government's decisions are as per the principles laid down by the Supreme Court's landmark judgment of August 1, 2024, which empowered states to decide on internal reservation.

The chief minister noted that the government's decisions could be changed based on the upcoming decadal census data.

Tunnel road will need 80...

Tunnel road, from Page 1

Rajkumar Dugar, activist, opined the government could build a two-way road of the same length by acquiring 80 acres. "According to the Indian Road Congress (IRC) standards, with 80 acres of land, we can construct close to 16.1 km of two-lane, two-way road and 11.5 km of two-way, three-lane road. When such is the situation, why should the government invest so much on a tunnel road project which is disastrous," Dugar said.

The twin-tunnel project is expected to cost Rs 1,062 crore per km and since the project is being taken up under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, the government will only have to bear 40% of the costs. This will be funded by HUDCO as a loan for which the government will stand as the guarantor.

Dr C N Ashwath Narayan, Malleshwaram MLA, however, expressed concerns over this financing arrangement. "Under the Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT), 60% will be paid by the operator. Who will pay the remaining 40%? It's the BBMP, by pledging its assets. Offices, cemeteries, schools and all other municipal assets will be pledged. Who will pay if the project cost exceeds the loan borrowed?" he said.

Narayan added that the state had faced a similar situation back in the early 2000s. "Between 1999 and 2004, a big HUDCO loan was borrowed for Bengaluru development. At the time, the government stood guarantee for the loan. When the loan couldn't be repaid, it got shifted to a nationalised bank. BBMP assets were pledged and the BJP had to take the blame," he said.

In the written answer, Shivakumar also said the government, which is yet to finalise the tender, is also simultaneously working on land acquisition, shifting the trees, planning alternate routes for traffic management, and planning on waste management of waste produced during the construction of the tunnel road.

Ruckus in LS over Bills...

Lok Sabha, from Page 1

As a Trinamool MP threw papers near Shah and appeared to approach the mic, Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and Ravneet Bittu who were behind Shah's seat rushed to shield the Home Minister and were followed by other BJP MPs. Both sides jostled and angry words were exchanged following which Birla adjourned the House till 3 pm. Both sides shouted slogans against each other.

Allegations flew thick and fast with both sides claiming that each was attacked by the other. Complaints were also filed against each other with the Speaker. At 3 pm when the House reconvened, Shah entered the House and sat in the third row as protesting MPs were in the Well. Twelve male and two female marshals were also deployed in the House to avoid any commotion.

Shah finally introduced the Bills amid sloganeering and moved a motion to send the Bills to a JPC for further scrutiny. The members of the panel will be finalised by Birla soon.

While BJP's Sambit Patra told reporters that the copies of the Bills were thrown towards Shah and a black chapter has been written by the Opposition, Trinamool Congress MP Mitali Bag alleged that two ministers pushed her and she suffered injuries. Trinamool's Banerjee said he did not tore the Bill but he "saluted" whoever did it, as the Bills were "against the Constitution".

Health, life insurance premium may be exempted from GST

GST, from Page 1

He emphasised the need for devising some mechanism to ensure that the benefits of the rate cut go to policyholders. The exemptions are proposed only for individual and family insurance policies.

GoM on insurance includes ministers from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also participated in the GoM meeting. "During the meeting, the Union Finance Minister emphasised that the proposal by the Union government is with a vision to usher in the next generation of GST reforms," the Finance Ministry said in a post on X.

According to the Finance Minister, the GST reforms would rest on three pillars: structural changes, rate rationalisation and ease of living.

It added that the "upcoming GST reforms will ensure seamless, tech-driven and time-bound registration, introduce pre-filled returns to reduce errors and mismatches and enable faster, automated refunds, all aimed at simplifying compliance, supporting businesses and enhancing the overall ease of living and doing business".

SC's poser on Governors...

Governors, from Page 1

"He is appointed by the President, who is, in turn, elected by the nation by way of an indirect election. The Governor's office will be reduced to a postman if he cannot use his discretion to withhold Bills," he added.

Referring to Constitutional debates, Mehta submitted that the Governor, under the substantive part of Article 200, can simply 'withhold assent' to a Bill if he believes that itis unconstitutional and beyond any remedial changes.

The arguments in the case would continue on Thursday. Mehta, dealing with the powers of the Governor under Article 200 in the context of Bills passed by a state legislature, said that the Governor has four options: grant assent to the Bill, withhold assent, reserve the Bill for consideration of the President or send it back to the legislature.

If the Governor returns a Bill and it is re-passed, assent becomes mandatory, though the Bill may still be referred to the President in case of repugnancy.

Mehta said withholding a Bill should be rare.

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No: HESCOM/SEE(PMC)/EE-P3/AEE-1, 2/2025-26/Cys-4808 Date: 20-08-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through K.P.P.P. Portal Only)

Superintending Engineer (Ele), Projects Monitoring Cell, Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi invites the below said tenders on lumpsum and TTK Basis in HESCOM jurisdiction.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Bid indent No for Reserved Category	Bid indent No for Others
1	Energisation of GK & DWS installations on RC TTK basis in Various sub division of HESCOM.	HESCOM/ 2025-26/EL/ WORK_INDENT 873, 878, 887, 905 & 907 **(5 packages)**	HESCOM/2025-26/EL/ WORK_INDENT874,875, 876,877, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 888, 889, 890, 901, 902, 903, 904, 906, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913 **(26 packages)**

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging in to the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.inafter 21.08.2025.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Project Monitoring Cell, HESCOM, Hubballi.

DIPR/Dharwad/572/Adverto/2025-26

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division,
R.R. Nagar Zone, Room No. 101, Annex-3 Building,
BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.

No. EE(QA/QC)/RRN/TEND/05/25-26 Date: 20.08.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Two Cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance / Quality Control Division, R.R.Nagar Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Chief Commissioner, BBMP invites Request for Proposal from interested Persons / Firms those who have similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC)" for the below works.

Sl.No.	Name of the Work
	PROVIDING PMC SERVICES INCLUDING SUPERVISION, QUALITY CONTROL for the following works.
1	Strengthening of main bund and rectification of Seepage through flood mitigation gate at Dubasipalya lake. Project Cost : **Rs. 150.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,700/-**
2	Rectification of damaged manholes, Strengthening of main bund in Ullala lake. Project Cost : **Rs. 150.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,700/-**
3	Pathway improvements, inlet correction and construction of culverts to Kengeri lake. Project Cost : **Rs. 200.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 6,300/-**
4	Construction of Waste weir and Sluice gate for Kenchanapura lake. Project Cost : **Rs. 100.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 3,200/-**
5	Maintenance of underpass at ORR from Tumkur road to Mysore Road. Project Cost : **Rs. 200.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 10,300/-**
6	**Improvements to the Roads and Drains and Construction of Culverts and Pathways :** in Ward No. 34, J.P. Park in Rajarajeshwarinagar Division. Project Cost : **Rs. 125.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,700/-**
7	in Ward No. 35, Yeshwanthpur in Rajarajeshwarinagar Division. Project Cost : **Rs. 125.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,700/-**
8	in Ward No. 36, Jalahalli in Rajarajeshwarinagar Division. Project Cost : **Rs. 125.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,700/-**
9	Improvements & Development of Roads in Karadigudda & surrounding area in Ward No. 37, Peenya in Rajarajeshwarinagar Division. Project Cost : **Rs. 125.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,700/-**
10	**Improvements & Development of Roads & drains :** in Goraguntepalya & surrounding areas in Ward No. 38, Lakshmidevinagara in Rajarajeshwarinagar Division. Project Cost : **Rs. 125.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,700/-**
11	in Preethi nagara, Kaveri nagara, Kempamma Badavane & surrounding areas in Ward No. 39, Laggere in Rajarajeshwarinagar Division. Project Cost : **Rs. 125.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,700/-**
12	in Chowdeshwarinagar, Muneshwara layout, Rajeev Gandhi Nagar & surrounding areas in Ward No. 40, Chowdeshwarinagara in Rajarajeshwarinagar Division. Project Cost : **Rs. 125.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,700/-**
13	in Nagarabhavi 10th & 11th Block, Kottigepalya & surrounding areas in Ward No. 41, Laggere in Rajarajeshwarinagar Division. Project Cost : **Rs. 125.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,700/-**
14	**Improvements & Development of Roads & drains and Construction of culverts :** in Ward No. 42, Srigandhakavalu in Rajarajeshwarinagar Division. Project Cost : **Rs. 125.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,700/-**
15	in Ward No. 43, Mallathahalli in Rajarajeshwarinagar Division. Project Cost : **Rs. 125.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,700/-**
16	in Ward No. 44, Jnanabharathi in Rajarajeshwarinagar Division. Project Cost : **Rs. 125.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,700/-**
17	in Ward No. 45, Rajarajeshwarinagar in Rajarajeshwarinagar Division. Project Cost : **Rs. 125.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,700/-**

Period of completion : **6 months for Sl.No. 1 to 4, 11 months for Sl.No.11 and 3 months for Sl.No. 6 to 17.**
Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 25.08.2025. (2)** Date of Pre-bid meeting : **30.08.2025 at 11.30 am. (3)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders : **06.09.2025 upto 4.00 pm**. **(4)** Date of opening of technical bid : **08.09.2025 at 4.30 pm. (5)** Validity of tender : **90 days from last date of receipts of tender.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (QA/QC)
R.R.Nagar Zone, BBMP

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/INFR/OTH/67348/2/2025-26 Date: 20.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

Short term Re-Tenders has been invited for **Providing AC Vehicles along with Drivers on Monthly Rental basis for Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society** on 20.08.2025 bearing Tender No. **KREIS/2025-26/SE0042/CALL-2** through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and the last date for receipt of tender is **03.09.2025 within 5.30 pm**. The details may be viewed in the above website.

Sd/- Deputy Director
KREIS, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/YC/2399/2025-26

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020
Phone : 080-23443206
Email : bdarmp2041@gmail.com, Website: kbda.karnataka.gov.in

No: BDA/RMP-2041/1955/2025-26 Dated: 19-08-2025

Global tender for selection of Agency to provide preparation of Revised Master Plan-2041 for Bengaluru City Local Planning Area.
(Through E-Procurement only)

Bangalore Development Authority is **engaged in preparation of Revised Master Plan-2041 for Bengaluru City Local Planning Area and hence, proposes to engage the services of an Agency,** which shall be selected through e-tender process to provide services for the same.

Tender document containing details of eligibility criteria, scope of work and other terms and conditions may be obtained from the website of e-procurement Department, Government of Karnataka. The last date for submission of Tenders at **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** is **30.09.2025 at 5.30 p.m.** BDA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

Sd/- Town Planner Member, BDA, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC&APCC)/EE(Proc-2)/AEE-3/6/2025-26/1885-902 Date: 20.08.2025

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works in a **Combined Package** against following Enquiry Number:

Sl. No.	Enquiry number / Name of the Work
1.	**KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT 2499**
	Work-A) Augmentation of **2x8MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformers by **2x20MVA**, 66/11kV Power Transformers at **66/11kV K. Byrapura Sub-Station**, in Channarayapattana Taluk, Hassan District. **Work-B)** Augmentation of **2x8MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformers by **2x20MVA**, 66/11kV Power Transformers at **66/11kV Didaga Sub-Station**, in Channarayapattana Taluk, Hassan District. **Work-C)** Augmentation of **1x8MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformers by **1x20MVA**, 66/11kV Power Transformers at **66/11kV Bagur Sub-Station**, in Channarayapattana Taluk, Hassan District. **Work-D)** Providing Additional **1x20 MVA** Power Transformer at 66/11kV Sub-station, **Gendehalli** in Belur Taluk, Hassan District.
2.	**KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT 2497**
	Work-A: Replacement of **1X6.3 MVA** ,66/11kV Power transformer by **1X20 MVA**, 66/11 kV Power Transformer at **66/11 kV Udayapura Sub Station** in Channarayapattana Taluk, Hassan District. **Work-B:** Replacement of **2X8 MVA**, 66/11kV Power transformer by **2X20 MVA** ,66/11 kV Power Transformer at **66/11kV Satenahally Sub Station** in Channarayapattana Taluk, Hassan District. **Work-C**: Replacement of **1X8 MVA** ,66/11 kV Power transformer by **1X20 MVA** ,66/11 kV Power Transformer and Providing additional 1X20 MVA, 66/11 kV Power Transformer at at **66 kV Kundurmata Sub Station** in Channarayapattana Taluk, Hassan District.
	on Partial Turnkey Basis, including Supply of all Materials/Equipments (Excluding supply of 11kV Switchgear) and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **22.08.2025 @ 15:00hrs**. Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **22.09.2025 @ 15:00hrs**. **Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal**. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/-, Chief General Manager (Tech),
KPTCL, Corporate Office, 2nd Floor,
Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru – 560 009.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560 017
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
(Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4169) (Fax: 080 25084155)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following work.

Description	Details
Name of work	Replacement of Package AC units of UPS and Conference Rooms at ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037.
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C and MG/ACMD/AC/1057/ETN-69A/2025-26 Dt.20.08.2025
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 26.58Lakhs
Tender Document Details	**E-Tender**
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	150 days / 05 Months
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	From 10:30 Hrs. on 21.08.2025 to 16:30Hrs. on 04.09.2025
Bid clarification	From 11:00 Hrs. on 21.08.2025 to 17:00 Hrs. on 08.09.2025
Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification.	Upto 17:00hrs on 10.09.2025
Last date and time for receipt of tenders.	Upto 14:30 Hrs. on 17.09.2025
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	After 15:00 Hrs. on 17.09.2025
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 53,160/- (Validity for 180 days)**

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-
Group Director (Construction & Maintenance Group)

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562114,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ:–27931221, ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 27931759
Email:-itstaff.ulb.hosakote@yahoo.com Website: www.hosakotecity.mrc.gov.in

ನಂ.ನಸಹೊ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಒಆರ್/ಟೆಂಡರ್/04/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.08.2025

"ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ"
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ 2025–26ನೇ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಏಕ/ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರು/ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು/ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಸ್‌ರವರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
	ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ವರ್ಗದವರಿಗೆ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಲಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು		
01	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT46333	20.00	21,200/–
	CAT-II(A) ರ ವರ್ಗದವರಿಗೆ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಲಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ.		
01	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT46713	10.24	21,700/–
02	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT45682	18.00	38,500/–
	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದವರಿಗೆ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಲಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು		
03	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT45708	10.00	21,200/–
04	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT46347	20.00	42,500/–
05	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT46610	20.00	42,500/–
06	DMA/2025-26/IND4692	49.97	85,000/–

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **06.09.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **08.09.2025ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ.**

ಸಹಿ/–
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/2389/ತಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2025–26

BBMP issues guidelines for Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has rolled out a series of measures to ensure an eco-friendly Ganesh Chaturthi this year.

At a review meeting chaired by Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao, officials announced a blanket ban on idols made with Plaster of Paris (PoP), thermocol, and chemical paints. Idols crafted from such materials will be seized and disposed of as per regulations.

The civic body stressed that only natural clay idols will be permitted. Rao further warned that criminal cases will be registered against manufacturers using banned substances.

To monitor compliance, nodal officers from BBMP sub-divisions, alongside officials from the police, fire, and Bescom departments, have been tasked with inspecting idol manufacturing and sales units.

For those planning public installations, approvals must be sought through nodal officers at the sub-divisional level. To streamline the process, 75 single-window centres will be established across the city, where BBMP and allied department officials will coordinate and grant permissions efficiently.

The BBMP has also urged citizens to immerse small clay idols at home and reuse the clay for gardening purposes. For larger idols, designated immersion points will be set up in every ward, supplemented by mobile immersion units.

Wet waste generated will be processed at the BBMP facilities.

People wade through a flooded Narihalla bridge near Sanapur village in Kampli taluk, Ballari district, on Wednesday. The Tungabhadra backwaters flooded the bridge following an outflow of over 1.10 lakh cusec from TB dam. DH PHOTO

Gokak Falls has come alive following heavy rain in Belagavi district. DH PHOTO/SANTHOSH E CHINAGUDI

Krishna river, its tributaries unleash flood fury in Belagavi district

More than 200 families moved to relief centres in Gokak town

BENGALURU, DHNS

Rainfall subsided but Krishna river and its tributaries Ghataprabha, Malaprabha and Markandeya rivers continued to unleash flood fury in the basin districts on Wednesday.

As many as 38 bridges in Belagavi district have been submerged while the floodwaters have reached more than 10 temples. The swollen Ghataprabha river has meandered its way through Gokak town, where more than 200 affected families were shifted to the relief centres. The famed Gokak Falls (Niagara Falls of Karnataka) has regained its full glory.

The floodwaters of Ghataprabha inundated Mahalakshmi Temple of Masaguppi in Mudalagi taluk while Markandeya river flooded Durgadevi Temple of Kotabagi.

The overflowing Ghataprabha has submerged vast tracts of agricultural land in Gokak and Mudhol taluks

An elderly man died in his sleep when a portion of the roof of his house collapsed on him at Ramdurg town. Deceased has been identified as Vamanrao Bapu Pawar (75).

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Roshan, ZP CEO Rahul Shinde and other officials visited flood-hit areas in the district and took stock of the situation.

Over 1.8 lakh cusec of water is flowing in Krishna river near Chikkodi. The flood situation will only worsen if outflows from Maharashtra dams go past 2 lakh cusec.

Heavy discharges from Malaprabha dam have created a flood-like situation downstream. People living on the banks of the river have been told to be alert.

The Narayanapur (Basava Sagar) dam in Hunsagi taluk, Yadgir district, has clocked a massive 2.5 lakh cusec inflow on Wednesday. The outflow from the dam, downstream Almatti, has been increased to 2.6 lakh cusec. The swollen river has flooded the historic Chaya Bhagawati Temple on the banks of Krishna near Narayanpur.

The major road link between Kalaburagi and Raichur has been cut off with Krishna river flowing over the Huvinahedagi bridge. The vehicles plying from Raichur to Kalaburagi are forced to take an 88-km detour via Thinthini bridge.

Flood fears loom large over Afzalpur taluk following the release of over 1.10 lakh cusec from Ujjani dam in Maharashtra to Bhima river. Karanja reservoir has reached its maximum level and the outflow from the dam has increased.

As much as 1.16 lakh cusec of water was released from Tungabhadra river through 26 crest gates after the dam recorded an inflow of over 1.2 lakh cusec. Several monuments in Anegundi and Hampi have gone under the swollen river for the third time this rainy season. Tungabhadra river has flooded farmlands in upstream villages of Harapanahalli taluk.

The Varada, Dharma and Tungabhadra rivers combined have submerged eight bridges in Haveri district thereby affecting traffic. The road link between Kalasuru and Haveri/Karjagi has been cut off with Varada flooding the bridge.

Rains have subsided in Malnad region on Wednesday, but the torrential rain that lashed the region in the past few days has damaged coffee, pepper, paddy, ginger, cardmom and areca crops on vast tracts of farmland.

Discharge exceeds inflow in 2 major basins; dams near full level

Krishna and Cauvery basins together hold 477 tmcft; officials cite safety, storage needs

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Seven of the 10 major reservoirs in Cauvery and Krishna basins are discharging more water than they are receiving. Authorities say the higher discharge is to maintain storage levels and prevent flooding downstream.

Of the total 537.02 tmcft capacity, these dams had stored 477.82 tmcft of water as of August 20. On Wednesday, the state discharged nearly 4.04 lakh cusec of water from its reservoirs to states like AP, Kerala and TN.

Hydro-mechanical engineer Kannaiah Naidu said dam officials, based on records and expected inflow from rainfall in catchment areas, calculate discharge volumes. The higher release, he explained, serves two purposes—creating room for fresh water and preventing downstream flooding.

On Wednesday, the six Krishna basin reservoirs—Bhadra, Tungabhadra, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Almatti and Narayanapura—received 20.5 tmcft following heavy rains in catchment areas, especially in Maharashtra. Almatti and its balancing Narayanapura reservoirs discharged 2.5 lakh cusec and 2.05 lakh cusec respectively, while their inflows were 1.14 lakh cusec and 1.83 lakh cusec.

"The catchments of Krishna basin rivers, especially in the Western Ghats, are receiving very heavy rainfall. We need at least 48 hours of lead time to store the floodwater expected by August 21 morning. To ensure sufficient storage space and avoid downstream flooding, we have discharged nearly two lakh cusec over the last two days. Discharge may increase depending on inflows," said Almatti Reservoir Chief Engineer D Basavaraj.

Except for Tungabhadra, all reservoirs are nearing full capacity. The Hosapete reservoir has been advised to store only 80% of its 105 tmcft due to weak crest gates. Officials are maintaining inflow and outflow at 1.28 lakh cusec.

In the Cauvery basin, the four reservoirs—Harangi, Hemavathi, KRS and Kabini—are releasing water equal to or more than their inflows, having received 5.7 tmcft on Wednesday.

"We are releasing 80,000 to one lakh cusec to ensure KRS maintains 40 tmcft for near-future use," said KRS Superintending Engineer Raghuramani K.

Steady inflow

Compared to last year, inflow and outflow at the two basins' reservoirs are lower. Till August 20, 2024, cumulative inflow to major reservoirs was 1,279 tmcft, while discharge was 889 tmcft.

This year, inflow is 1,115.8 tmcft and discharge is 839.7 tmcft. One reason for the higher storage last year was the drought-like situation in 2023.

Smart meter probe: HC extends interim order

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday extended till August 28 the interim stay on proceedings before the special court in connection with a complaint against Energy Minister K J George and senior officials of the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom). Justice M I Arun adjourned the matter by a week.

The private complaint was filed by BJP legislators C N Ashwath Narayan (Malleshwaram), S R Vishwanath (Yelahanka) and D Muniraj (Doddaballapur) against George, Mahantesh Bilagi, former Bescom managing director and now MD of the Karnataka State Minerals Development Corporation, and H J Ramesh, Bescom Director (Technical). They alleged irregularities in awarding a tender for procuring and installing smart meters across Karnataka.

The legislators accused the officials of causing a loss to the exchequer and extending wrongful gain to contractor Rajashree Electricals. The complaint invoked Sections 314, 316 and 61 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, along with provisions under Sections 13(1)(a) and 13(1)(b) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The petitioners have sought quashing of the private complaint filed on July 17, 2025, and also the special court's July 23 order directing the Lokayukta Superintendent of Police to file a report under Section 175(4) of the BNSS before the next hearing.

KSRTC to pay Rs 20L to kin of staff dying of health issues

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has increased the compensation from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh for employees who die of causes other than accidents.

Under the KSRTC Employee Family Welfare Scheme, the bus corporation will pay Rs 14 lakh instead of Rs 10 lakh, effective September 1, 2025. The State Bank of India (SBI) will pay another Rs 6 lakh, taking the total compensation to Rs 20 lakh.

The scheme covers serving employees who die of heart attacks, cancer, kidney failure or other medical reasons.

The KSRTC increased the compensation from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 10 lakh with effect from October 1, 2023, and has so far paid the dependents of 157 deceased employees.

The corporation pays Rs 1 crore to the dependents of employees who die due to personal or duty-related accidents through accident insurance.

NOMINATED AUTHORITY, MINISTRY OF COAL, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
120, F-Wing, 1st Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
011-23384106

"Invitation of Bids for Auction of Coal Mines / Blocks for Sale of Coal"

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 4(1) and 4 (2) of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and Section 11A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Rules made thereunder, the Government of India has directed the Nominated Authority to undertake the auction of Coal mines / blocks under 23rd Tranche of Auction under CM (SP) Act, 2015 & 13th Tranche of Auction under MMDR Act, 1957 and under Second Attempt of 22nd Tranche of Auction under CM(SP) Act, 2015 & Second Attempt of 12th Tranche of Auction under MMDR Act, 1957. The Tender process has been launched on Thursday, the 21st August, 2025. Tender Document and other details can be accessed on https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/coalblock/index.jsp.

CBC 04107/11/0001/2526

कार्यालय कार्यपालक अभियंता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, लातेहार।

ई0 निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना।

ई0 निविदा संख्या–WRD/MID/ Latehar F2 - 15/2025-26

पत्रांक– 614 लातेहार / दिनांक–19.08.2025

1	कार्य का नाम	बरखेता मध्यम सिंचाई योजना का जीर्णोद्धार, बोदे मध्यम सिंचाई योजना का जीर्णोद्धार एवं दनदाहा मध्यम सिंचाई योजना का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य प्रखंड– बरवाडीह।
2	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में)	212.551 Lakh
3	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	11 माह
4	ई0 निविदा वेबसाईट पर प्रकाशित करने की तिथि	28.08.2025
5	ई0 निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	08.09.2025 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक
6	बीड फीस एवं अग्रधन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	08.09.2025 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक e-procurement portal(Jharkhand tenders.gov. in)
7	ई0 निविदा खुलने की तिथि एवं समय	10.09.2025 12.30 बजे अपराह्न।
8	(क) निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का पदनाम एवं पता (ख) निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का फोन नं0	कार्यपालक अभियंता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, लातेहार।
	ई0 प्रोक्योमेंट सेल एवं हेल्प लाईन संख्या	0651– 2214784

नोटः– केवल ई0 निविदा ही स्वीकार की जायेगी
प्राक्कलित राशि घट बढ़ सकती है।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट–jharkhandtenders gov in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
PR 359911 (Water Resource) 25-26 (D) लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, लातेहार।

कार्यालय कार्यपालक अभियंता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, लातेहार

ई0 निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई0 निविदा संख्या–WRD/MID/ Latehar F2 - 12/2025-26

पत्रांक– 611 लातेहार / दिनांक–19.08.2025

1	कार्य का नाम	सेडे नदी, लाटो नदी नाला एवं डेलीकरचा नाला पर पक्का चेकडैम निर्माण कार्य, प्रखंड– महुआडाड़
2	प्राक्कलित राषि (लाख में)	193.369 Lakh
3	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	11 माह
4	ई0 निविदा वेबसाईट पर प्रकाषित करने की तिथि	28.08.2025
5	ई0 निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	08.09.2025 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक
6	बीड फीस एवं अग्रधन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	08.09.2025 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक e-procurement portal(Jharkhand tenders.gov. in)
7	ई0 निविदा खुलने की तिथि एवं समय	10.09.2025 12.30 बजे अपराह्न।
8	(क) निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का पदनाम एवं पता (ख) निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का फोन नं0	कार्यपालक अभियंता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, लातेहार।
	ई0 प्रोक्योमेंट सेल एवं हेल्प लाईन संख्या	0651– 2214784

नोटः– केवल ई0 निविदा ही स्वीकार की जायेगी
प्राक्कलित राशि घट बढ़ सकती है।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट–jharkhandtenders gov in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
PR 359907 (Water Resource)25-26*D लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, लातेहार

Nelamangala Devihalli Expressway Private Limited
Toll Plaza Admin Building, Karekal Village, Kasaba Hobli, NH-75, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore – 562123.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public is hereby informed that, user fee for the use of Highway from Km. 28+200 to Km.110+000 of Nelamangala -Devihalli Section of NH-75 (Old NH-48) in the state of Karnataka are revised as per approval of National Highways Authority of India vide letter No.NHAI/PIU-HSN/25005/3/1/0738, dated19.08.2025. The revised rates are effective from 1st September 2025 at the following Toll Plazas: -
Toll Fee Rates at **Doddakarenahalli Toll Plaza (Km. 32+600)** for a length of 40.131 Kms NH-75 (Old NH-48) **&**
Toll Fee Rates at **Karabylu Toll Plaza (Km. 100+250)** for a length of 40.131 Kms NH-75(old NH-48) are mentioned below:

Vehicle Category	Fee for Single Journey (In Rs.)	Fee for multiple trips within a day (In Rs.)	Fee for monthly pass valid for 60 journeys within a month (In Rs.)
Car, Passenger van or Jeep	60	85	1745
Light Commercial Vehicle (LCV)	100	155	3055
Bus, Truck	205	305	6105
Multi Axle Vehicle (>2 axle), Heavy construction machinery and earth moving equipment	325	490	9815

1. The fee rate for monthly pass to local traffic (Car/Van/Jeep) shall be Rs.150/ Rs.300 for the persons residing within the radius of 10 Km/10-20 Km respectively from the plaza., concessional fee for the local LCV/Truck shall be Rs.15/Rs.25 respectively for each entry. Monthly pass for the school buses for school students will be Rs.1000.
2. **As per Gazette of India(Ministry of Road Transport and Highways) notification dated 15.05.2020 G.S.R 298 "the user of the vehicle not fitted with "FASTag" or vehicle without valid/functional "FASTag" entering into FASTag lane" of the fee plazas shall pay a fee equivalent to two times of the fee applicable to that category of vehicles."**
3. Vehicles loaded in excess of permissible load, shall be liable to pay up to 10 times of the applicable User Fee based on percentage of excess load over maximum permissible GVW (Gross Vehicular Weight) & remove such excess load at their own cost & risk to make use of highway as per NH Fee (Determination of Rates & Collection) Amendment Rules 2013, 2015 & 2018 published by MORTH vide Gazette Notification Nos. G.S.R.778(E) dt. 16.12.2013, G.S.R.220(E) dt. 23.03.2015 & G.S.R.920(E) dt. 25.09.2018, and NHAI Policy Circular No. 11041/218/2007-Admn dt. 31.12.2015.
4. The facility of Annual pass introduced by the National Highways Authority of India can be availed at Doddakarenahalli and Karabylu toll plazas as per the guidelines circulated by the Authority.

Sd/- Authorized Signatory
Nelamangala Devihalli Expressway Private Limited

CHHATTISGARH MINERAL DEVELOPEMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Chhattisgarh Undertaking)
REGD.OFFICE:SECTOR24,BLOCKNO.07A,THIRDFLOOR,
ATAL NAGAR, NAVA RAIPUR (C.G.)-492015

e-TenderNo. for Mukam and SalgiBauxite Ore Mines: - MLS/Raipur/Operations/4/25-26/ET/6[CMDC MUKAM AND SALGI BAUXITE] e-TenderNo. forJamirapath Bauxite Ore Mine: - MLS/Raipur/Operations/3/25-26/ET/5 [CMDC JAMIRAPATH BAUXITE ORE] e-TenderNo. for Dandkesra and Uranga-Barima Bauxite Ore Mines: - MLS/Raipur/Operations/5/25-26/ET/7[CMDC URANGA BARIMA BAUXITE ORE] Date 21.08.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

1. Online and sealed tenders are invited from experienced and financially sound parties for the following works:
(a) Hiring of Equipment for excavation, transportation, and delivery of bauxite ore at the Delivery Point in **Mukam and Salg, Bauxite Ore Mines, Kabirdham District, Chhattisgarh, India.**
(b) Hiring of Equipment for excavation, transportation, and delivery of bauxite ore at the Delivery Point in **Jamirapath Bauxite Ore Mine,** Balrampur District, Chhattisgarh, India.
(c) Hiring of Equipment for excavation, transportation, and delivery of bauxite ore at the Delivery Point in **Dandkesra and Uranga-Barima Bauxite Ore Mines,** Surguja District, Chhattisgarh, India.
2. Each Tender Document will be available for download at the cost of Rs. 50,000+Rs. 9000 (18% GST) =59, 000 (Rs. Fifty Nine Thousand Only). The Tender Documents can be viewed and downloaded from the website of MSTC Ltd namely https://mstcecommerce.com/eprocn/from **21.08.2025 to 18.09.2025 up to 3.00 p.m.** against payment of the above cost of Tender Document. Bidders shall not be allowed to bid without paying the above-mentioned Tender Fee. Cost of the tender document is non-refundable.
3. For clarification of the issues related to the tender pre bid conference will be held in CMDC's H.O. on **03.09.2025 at 3.00 p.m.**
4. The last date for online submission of Technical Bid and Base Price Offer is **18.09.2025 up to 3.00 p.m.** The original hard copies of the Technical Bid only should be submitted to the CMDC's office on or before **18.09.2025 up to 3.00 p.m.** Technical Bid will be opened on the same day at **4.00 p.m.** at CMDC's Head office, Sector 24, Block No. 07 A, Third Floor, Atal Nagar,Nava Raipur (Chhattisgarh)-492015.
For further clarifications Chief General Manager, CMDC, Raipur may be contacted at 0771- 2960539
5. Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and Tender at a glance can be viewed and downloaded fromthe CMDC's website www.cmdc.co.in from **21.08.2025**
6. Notice Inviting Tender is in brief. For further details, the Bidder shall refer the Bid Document.

S-44971/4 **Managing Director**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that inquiries are being conducted into the title and interest of **Sher Logistics Park Private Limited**, a company existing under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 bearing CIN: U63000KA2019PTC120589 and having its registered office at Third Floor, Discoverer Building International Tech Park, Whitefield Road, Bangalore, Karnataka 560066, India ("**the Company**") to certain immoveable properties comprising of land parcels admeasuring 13 Acres 33 Guntas in the aggregate, all situated in Chokkandahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District together with structures standing thereon ("**the said Property**") described herein below:

Description of Property: Survey Nos. 121 admeasuring 01 Acre 34 Guntas, 125/3 (Old No. 125/2) admeasuring 01 Acre 08 Guntas, 126/3 admeasuring 01 Acres 38 Guntas, 126/4 (Old No. 126/2) admeasuring 01 Acre 02 Guntas, 127/3 admeasuring 14 Guntas, 127/4 admeasuring 12 Guntas, 127/5 admeasuring 02 Acres 14 ½ Guntas, 127/6 admeasuring 01 Acres 08 ¼ Guntas, 129/1 admeasuring 02 Acres and 129/3 (Old No. 129/2) admeasuring 01 Acre 21 ¼ Guntas aggregating to a total extent of 13 Acres 33 Guntas, TOGETHER WITH the structures constructed thereon.

Persons having or claiming any right, title, interest, or claim of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Said Property or any part thereof, are hereby requested to submit their claims in writing, along with supporting documentary evidence duly attested by a Notary Public, to the undersigned at Pride Elite, 2nd Floor, Museum Cross Road, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560001, marked to the attention of Pinaz Mehta and Denzil Arambhan, and by email to pinaz.mehta@wadiaghandy.com and denzil.arambhan@wadiaghandy.com, within **14 (fourteen) days** from the date of this publication.

Claims not received within the stipulated time, or unsupported by valid documentation, shall be deemed to have been waived and abandoned and will not be entertained.

DATED THIS 21st DAY OF August 2025

Wadia Ghandy & Co. (Bangalore),
Pinaz Mehta, Partner

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender No. CE-RSW-25-26-01, dated 19.08.2025. e-Tender is invited by General Manager (Engg.)/S.E. Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work. **Description of the Work** : Provision of 59 Nos. of subways with RCC Box (Size 2.5m x 2.5m) by Box pushing method for pedestrian/animal/2-wheelers between Railway Km. 233.880 to 515.117 (Asanboni - Jharsuguda) in Chakradharpur Division of South Eastern Railway. **Tender Value :** ₹ 88,04,51,780.81. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 45,52,300/-. **Tender Document Cost:** Nil. **Tender Closing Date & Time :** 19.09.2025, 11.00 hrs. **Period of completion :** 24 months. Interested Tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description of the tenders and to know the status of this tender so as to submit their bids online. Physical/manual tender for this work will not be accepted. **(PR-542)**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD.2025-26/11 Dt: 13.08.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of work	Approx.Value
(I) OHE modification in connection with construction of AC Loco trip shed at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal, Bengaluru. (ii) Proposal for replacing Low HT shelter of PF 7&8, provision of shelter in open area between second entry building and platform entrance including granite flooring-TRD work **Period of completion: 08 Months**	Rs. 54,20,894.02/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 04.09.2025**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Bengaluru
PUB/391/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Application notification No.217/YTSK/SBC/9/2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites applications from the authorized ticketing agents appointed by Railways including **JTBS, RTSA, RTA and agents appointed by IRCTC,Retail Service Providers of IRCTC** for establishment & operation of Computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) cum Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) terminals which shall be called as **Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK)** over Bangalore Division of South Western Railway for an initial tenure of Three Years.

For details log on : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Date and time of submission of application	From 10.00 hours to 15.00 hours of 22.09.2025
Date and time of Opening of application	15:05 hours of 22.09.2025

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru
PUB/393/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

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Thanksgiving

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India pushes to fix trade imbalance with Russia

Jaishankar meets Russian DyPM, seeks to diversify trade

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Notwithstanding United States President Donald Trump's tariff tirade against New Delhi, India on Wednesday expressed its keenness to expand and diversify its bilateral commerce with Russia to reach the annual target of $100 billion by 2030, but stressed that the issue of growing trade imbalance must be addressed urgently.

Russia underlined its willingness to export Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to India, in addition to oil.

It also expressed its keenness to expand cooperation with India in the nuclear energy sector, building on the success of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu.

New Delhi and Moscow noted that the share of payments between them in national currencies had exceeded 90%.

Terms of Reference finalised

New Delhi on Wednesday also finalised the Terms of Reference for the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the Eurasia Economic Union — a bloc comprising Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and the Kyrgyz Republic. India's annual trade with the union was up 7% to $69 billion in 2024.

All this happened as Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov in Moscow.

They co-chaired the 26th session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC).

"Our bilateral trade in goods has increased... more than five-fold from $13 billion in 2021 to $68 billion in 2024-25, and it continues to grow," Jaishankar told Manturov. "However, a major trade imbalance has accompanied the growth; it has increased from $6.6 billion to $58.9 billion, which is about nine times. So, we need to address that urgently."

The meeting took place just about a fortnight after Trump imposed an additional 25% tariff, over and above the 25% imposed a few days earlier, on all Indian exports to the US.

The move was in response to India's continued purchase of Russian oil, defying the sanctions imposed by the US and the rest of the West on Russia over its war in Ukraine, which started in February 2022.

During the meeting, Manturov noted that Russia continued to ship fuel, including crude oil and oil products, and thermal and coking coal, to India and saw potential for the export of LNG as well.

'Russia expects to be part of Sudarshan Chakra project'

A senior Russian diplomat said that Russia is expected to be part of New Delhi's plans to create a new air defence system called Sudarshan Chakra, which was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day speech, reports PTI. "We proceed from the understanding that when it comes to the advancement of these systems, Russian equipment will be part of it," Russian charge d'affaires Roman Babushkin said.

From silver screen to political stage: Vijay bets on long haul

His entry changed political scene in TN, with most discussions centred around his moves

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
MADURAI, DHNS

After the launch of his Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) in October 2024, Vijay has made hardly half a dozen public appearances, most of them quite brief. Yet his entry has disrupted the political scene in Tamil Nadu, with much of the discussion centered around his moves.

On Thursday, when Vijay takes the dais at the much-awaited second state-level conference of his fledgling party, he will not only seek to consolidate his support base but also shed light on the electoral strategy he plans to adopt in the run-up to the assembly elections in 2026.

Having declared the DMK and BJP as 'no-go zones', Vijay has also closed the door on the AIADMK, though he is yet to publicly criticise the party.

With his offer to share power with allies seen as an attempt to break the DMK alliance and finding little favour, Vijay appears to have no option but to contest alone.

Vijay

He has tried to reach out to the Congress, but the party continues to cold-shoulder him, as it remains focused on strengthening the I.N.D.I.A. bloc, of which the DMK is an integral part.

Vijay's entry is one of the key reasons both Dravidian majors, DMK and AIADMK, have launched their election campaigns earlier than usual. They are now keenly awaiting TVK's Madurai conference, looking for insights into Vijay's strategies and the political course.

One reason both parties take Vijay seriously is internal surveys that put TVK's support at no less than 15%, and higher in some regions.

While the DMK has adopted a cautious approach by not directly engaging with or responding to Vijay's jibes, the AIADMK at one point actively wooed him. However, Vijay shut that door by stipulating that anyone who accepts him as leader can join the alliance.

Besides targeting first-time and young voters and the anti-DMK vote, the actor is also trying to siphon off some anti-BJP votes and minority support, which have largely gone to the DMK since 2019. However, political observers note that his attacks on the saffron party are not as strong as those on the DMK.

Political analyst Maalan Narayanan said Vijay will try to mobilise his fans and consolidate his support base at the conference as he makes a concerted push to position himself as the alternative to both Dravidian parties.

Not aware of any anti-B'desh activities from Indian soil: MEA

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Wednesday said it was not aware of any anti-Bangladesh activities in the country by the Awami League party led by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

New Delhi's comments came after Bangladesh's interim government said that the opening of its offices by the Awami League in Indian cities could adversely impact bilateral ties.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said New Delhi is not aware of any anti-Bangladesh activities by purported members of the Awami League in India or of any action that is contrary to Indian law.

"The government does not allow political activities against other countries to be carried out from Indian soil," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"The press statement by the Interim government of Bangladesh is thus misplaced," he said.

"India reiterates its expectation that free, fair and inclusive elections will be held at the earliest in Bangladesh to ascertain the will and mandate of the people," he added.

In its statement, Dhaka said on Wednesday that the opening of Awami League offices in Indian cities poses a risk to bilateral ties.

"This development also risks upholding the good-neighbourly relations with India driven by mutual trust and mutual respect, and lends serious implications for the political transformation underway in Bangladesh," Bangladesh's foreign ministry said.

'Untenable': India rejects Nepal's objection to restart trade with China via Lipulekh Pass

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Nepal has objected to India and China's latest decision to restart border trade through the Lipulekh Pass, reasserting its claim on the area.

New Delhi, however, rejected the objection. "Our position in this regard has been consistent and clear. Border trade between India and China through Lipulekh Pass commenced in 1954 and has been going on for decades. This trade had been disrupted in recent years due to Covid-19 and other developments, and both sides have now agreed to resume it," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

Jaiswal also said Nepal's claims on the areas within the territory of India were "neither justified nor based on historical facts and evidence".

"Any unilateral artificial enlargement of territorial claims is untenable," he said, adding that India continued to be open to "constructive interaction" with Nepal on resolving agreed-upon outstanding boundary issues.

The meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on Monday saw both countries agreeing to restart border trade through three designated points — Lipulekh in Uttarakhand, Shipki La in Himachal Pradesh and Nathu La in Sikkim.

Kathmandu, however, on Wednesday, objected to the move by China and India through the Lipulekh Pass, calling it a part of the territory of Nepal.

New Delhi's relations with Kathmandu suffered a setback after current Nepalese Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, during his previous term, ratcheted up the Nepal-India dispute over the Lipulekh-Kalapani-Limpiyadhura area in 2020. "The Nepal government is clear that its official map has been included in the Constitution of Nepal, and that the map shows Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani east of the Mahakali River as integral parts of Nepal," Nepal's foreign ministry said in a statement.

It added that Nepal had been urging India not to carry out any activities, such as road construction or expansion and border trade, in the area.

Maharashtra rain toll crosses 27; over 5,000 shifted

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Partially submerged structures as the water level of the Godavari river rises following rainfall, in Nashik. PTI

The number of rain-related deaths in Maharashtra since the weekend went up to 27 on Wednesday, even as more than 5,000 people were rescued and shifted to safer locations across the state as torrential showers continued to pound parts of it. Meanwhile, standing crops across 12-14 lakh acres have been damaged.

India's financial capital Mumbai, which was battered by heavy rainfall, is slowly returning to normalcy.

The bodies of five people from the same family — suspected to have died of electrocution — were found in an agricultural field in Erandol in the Jalgaon district.

A 17-year-old boy lost his life after coming into contact with a live high-tension wire in Mumbai's Bhandup area.

People were moved to safety in Mumbai (500), Raigad (1,332), Thane (610), Palghar (500), Nanded (293), Ratnagiri (112), Satara (361), Pune (292), and Sangli (471), according to data compiled by the State Disaster Management Authority.

According to local reports, heavy rainfall was reported in the Western Maharashtra division districts of Sangli, Satara, and Kolhapur.

Heavy rainfall caused severe flooding in Pune city and Pimpri-Chinchwad, prompting the evacuation of hundreds to safer locations on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday.

Water was discharged from multiple dams in Pune — including Mulshi, Panshet, Varasgaon, Khadakwasla, Pavana, and Temghar. From Khadakwasla, water was discharged at a rate of 15,000 cusecs, after which an alert was issued for those living in low-lying areas.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), parts of Mumbai recorded 150-200 mm rainfall from the 24 hours beginning 8 am on Tuesday.

"Heavy to very heavy rainfall" was "very likely" at isolated places of Mumbai and its suburbs, according to the weather forecast for the day. It added that occasional gusty winds, reaching 45-55 kmph, were also "very likely".

"Despite the heavy rain, routine life in Mumbai continues smoothly. Services of Central Railway, Western Railway and Harbour Railway, along with BEST Buses, are operating smoothly," said the BMC.

The District Collectors of Palghar, Thane, and Raigad declared a holiday on Wednesday as a precautionary measure.

After-school swim turns tragic: 6 children drown in Andhra pond

HYDERABAD, DHNS: In a tragic incident, six children drowned in a pond in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district.

All victims were fifth-grade students and had gone for a swim after school hours.

After classes, instead of returning home, the six students headed straight to a pond near the village. Another student remained on the shore.

All six children who entered the pond drowned. The lone student raised an alarm, prompting villagers to rush to the scene. A local shepherd helped retrieve the bodies, police said.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock over the incident. In his condolence message, Naidu described the incident as extremely unfortunate and said the loss of children has left an irreparable wound in their families' hearts.

YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy also expressed shock and grief over the tragic deaths. He said it was extremely heartbreaking that the students drowned while they were swimming.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: EEE/AEE/PD/CHN/F-421/2025-26/514-16 Dated: 12.08.2025

NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited has formulated a scheme under section 28 and clause (e) of section 18 of the Indian Electricity Supply Act 1948 and the scheme is herewith published in pursuance of section 29(2) of the said act and also under Indian Electricity Act 2003 section 67 to be read with 67(2), this notification is issued for information of the General public. Particulars of scheme are as here under.

1. Name of the work: Construction of proposed 66kV DC line on 110KV DC Narrow Based Towers with Panther conductor from existing 66/11kV Bommalapura sub-station to proposed 66/11kV S/S Vaddagere for a distance of 7.505 kms in Gundlupete Taluk and Chamarajanagara District.

Salient Feature: Improvement of Voltage and to meet future load growth in and around Vaddagere, Bommanahalli, Kundakere, Kirakkanahalli, Kadaburu, Rammayyanapura, Rammayyanapura Colony, Upakaar, Upakaar Colony, Karkamadalli, Heggavadi, Kereyuru, Daari Beguru and surrounding villages Limits Gundlupete Taluk and Chamarajanagara District.

Areas Passing Through:

Vaddagere (survey no's 85, 86, 87, 96)
Heggavadi (survey no's 148, 81, 67, 66, 59, 61, 49)
Karakamadalli (survey no 51)
Daribeguru (survey no's 25, 26, 40, 60, 61, 62, 66, 80, 83, 97, 93)
Kodasoge (survey no's 119, 115, 263, 133, 136, 148, 151)
Ankahalli (survey no 177)
Vadeyanapura (survey no 95)
Vadeyanapura Amanikere (survey no's 12, 14, 22, 23, 30, 35)
Bommalapura (survey no's 136,105) and surrounding village limits

Approximate length line:	7.505 Kms.
Approximate cost:	2878.20 lakhs

2. Name of the work : Construction of Proposed 66kV DC Line on DC Towers LILO line From existing 66kV Chamarajanagara-Hangala SC Line for a distance of 5.525 Kms to the Proposed 66kV S/s at Kannegala (Bheemanabeedu) S/s in Gundlapete Taluk & Chamarajanagara District

Salient Feature: Improvement of Voltage and to meet future load growth in and around Kannegala, Gopalapura, Kungalli, Devarahallli, Kannegowdanahalli, Bheemanabeedu, Machayanahundi, Honnegowdanahalli, Lakkipura Kunagahalli, Kallipura and surrounding villages Limits Gundlupete Taluk and Chamarajanagara District.

Areas Passing Through:

Hangala (survey no's- 64, 283, 72, 71, 159, 167, 168, 165, 162, 163)
Devarahalli (survey no's 42, 43, 55, 56, 57, 58, 68, 69, 70, 76)
Honnegowdanahalli (survey no's 36, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 108)
Kannegala (survey no's 6, 8, 12, 14, 38, 39, 40, 41, 44, 45, 46, 353, 354, 357 & 359) and surrounding village limits

Approximate length line:	5.525 Kms
Approximate cost	2515.26 lakhs

KPTCL shall have and exercise all powers under the section 164 of Indian Electricity Act 2003 read with para (iii) of the Indian Telegraph act 1885 (10 to 19 & 19A of 1885) for implementation of the above said scheme. Any objection regarding the above scheme shall be sent to the undersigned office within **Two months** from the date of Publication of this notification for consideration by Corporation.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele), Project Division, 220KV R/S Doddarayapete KPTCL, Chamarajanagar-13.

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI
No : EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB /TS2/TND/2025-26/2424 Date : 19/08/2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT TWO COVER SYSTEM)

1) Name of work : Pro & instal testing inter active flat panel, syllabus content required for 3 language, 1kv built in batteries UPS, amplifier with collar mic & speaker, sim 4G router to 24 Govt. Schools in Chincholi Taluka Indent No. **RDPR/2025-26/IND10677**, 2) Head of account: **KKRDB FOR THE YEAR 2023-24**, 3) Amount put to tender: **RDPR/2025-26/IND10677 Rs. 1,24,82,040.00,** 4) Class of Contractor: Manufacturer / Authorised Dealer / Supplier, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: **18-08-2025 TO 02-09-2025 UPTO 4.00 PM**, 6) Tender Form Fee : Rs. 3130.00, 7) E.M.D. Fee: Rs. 2,00,000.00, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents: **18-08-2025 TO 02-09-2025 UPTO 4.00 PM**, 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: **03-09-2025 AFTER 4.00 PM,** 10) Financial Bid opening Date: **06-09-2025 AFTER 11.00 AM,** 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi, 12) Website Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/412/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi**

PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, KOPPAL
Office of the Executive Engineer, Jawahar Road, Koppal - 583 231,
E-mail : eepredkpl@gmail.com

No. : E.E./P.R.E.D./DN/KPL/DB/TENDER/2025-26/1214 Date : 20-08-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Koppal, invites item rates Tender through KPPP / GEM in One & Two Cover Systems, **Standard Bid Document KW-1, 2, 3 & 4 under Head of Account 2023-24 KGBV (Type 1 Dormitary (22))** of Koppal District, PWD and PRE Department from eligible registered Contractors. This Scheme is Fully Funded by the Government of Karnataka.

1) Name of Work : Construction of Dormitary Hostel to KGBV Girls Hostel (50 Childrens) at Alwandi Village in Koppal Tq, Koppal Dist. (Indent No. 17033), (Type 1 Dormitary-22), Category : General, Amount Put to Tender (in Lks) : 108.00, E.M.D. : Rs. 200000/-, Class : Class I, Duration of Period : 09 Months.

1) Download of Schedule-B in E-proc Portal : From 22-08-2025 Time after 10.00 a.m. upto 06-09-2025 Time 16.00 Hours. 2) Tender Receipt Last Date : From 22-08-2025 Time 10.00 a.m. upto 06-09-2025 Time 16.30 hrs, 3) Technical Bid Open Date and Time : (Both Technical & Financial Bids are Opened as Same Date for KW-1 & KW-2, KW-3 Works) : 08-09-2025 in office hours. 4) Financial Bid Open Date and Time : For KW 4 After getting Technical Approval from Competent Authority, Bid will be Opened.

General instructions : 1) Contractors participate in all tenders Online only. **2)** Pre-qualification Documents should be Uploaded by Scanning all certificates & other concerned Documents Online only. **3)** Pre-requisite EMD have to be pay online as per mentioned in Eproc-portal.

For more information, contractors need to consult to below signed Official, Officer, Contractors may get the information by going through. **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal. **This notified works can be Downloaded in http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal from Date : 21-08-2025**

For more information contact above the office. Eligible contractors participate Online by entering into KPPP Portal. **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal/gem.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Koppal/283/Manipal/2025-26 **P.R.E. Division, Koppal.**

सीएसआईआर - **राष्ट्रीय वांतरिक्ष प्रयोगशालाएं**
Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
NATIONAL AEROSPACE LABORATORIES
पी बी सं. 1779, एचएएल एयरपोर्ट रोड, कोडिहल्ली, बेंगलूरु – 560 017
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RECRUITMENT NOTICE

CSIR-NAL, Bengaluru, a constituent unit of CSIR-New Delhi invites applications from the eligible candidates for 02 positions of "**Junior Research Fellow**" as detailed below:

Qualification : MSc. Physics / Material Science
Upper Age Limit : 28 years
Monthly emoluments : Rs. 37,000+HRA

For complete details of advertisement, please visit CSIR-NAL website: **www.nal.res.in.** The last date of receiving offline application is **09/09/2025.**

Sd/-
Advt. No. 11/2025 **Sr. Controller of Administration**

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, CHALLAKERE-577522
(Ph:- 08195- 200094 E-mail : ka.challakere.cmc@gmail.com
No: CMCCLK/Tech/AMRUTH 2.0, 2019-20 to 2024-25 SFC SCSP TSP 7.25% Savings & 20219-202025-26 MF/CR 04/2025-26
Date: 19.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Challakere invites tenders in Two cover system using KW-1 & KW-3 document from Agency/PWD contractors as detailed mentioned below: -

SL NO	INDENT NUMBER	ESTIMATED AMOUNT (in lakhs)
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT46898	69.11
2	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT47388	2.94
3	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47392	1.05
4	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47391	2.54
5	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47394	1.04
6	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47398	5.60
7	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT47495	3.85
8	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT47397	10.00
9	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT47494	12.40
10	DMA/2025-26/OW/W_INDENT43681/CALL-2	2.00

Interested contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from from the e-Procurement platform (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Tenders shall be submitted electronically at www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.
Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:
(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries / Clarifications 01-09-2025 5.00 PM **(2)** Last Date and time receipt to tenders 09-09-2025 5.00 PM **(3)** Date and time for Opening of Technical Bid 10-09-2025 5.30 PM **(4)** Date and time for Opening of Financial Bid After Technical Approval of Bid
Any changes in the tender conditions and Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in any newspapers.

RO.No.297:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/- Municipal Commissioner City Municipal Council, Challakere.**

DECCAN HERALD
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The V-P race and southern stakes

The ruling NDA and the Opposition have announced candidates for the Vice-Presidential election, setting the stage for an intense contest for the country's second-highest constitutional position. While there is no denying the political heat around the contest, the outcome is more or less certain. The election comes against the backdrop of a series of confrontations between the government and the Opposition and a special circumstance that necessitated the poll – the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar, whose sudden decision is yet to be explained. The position of the Vice-President, who is also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, cannot be left vacant, as in the case of the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Both sides have made strategic choices for their candidates, and there is unmistakable politics in play. The NDA has gone for the long game while the Opposition is aiming specifically at the immediate contest. CP Radhakrishnan, the NDA candidate, is a senior BJP leader from Tamil Nadu, a two-time Lok Sabha MP, and currently the Governor of Maharashtra. The Opposition has picked former Supreme Court judge B. Sudershan Reddy as its candidate. In choosing Radhakrishnan, the BJP is eyeing political returns in Tamil Nadu, where the party has been trying to make inroads for a long time. It has a following in the western districts of the state and among the Gounder caste to which Radhakrishnan belongs. By backing Radhakrishnan, who has an RSS background, Prime Minister Narendra Modi may be sending out a message to the RSS. A Tamil as a V-P pick is also a move to create confusion within the DMK and a division in the Opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc.

The contest may not go down to the wire, but the candidate choices offer political intrigue

The Opposition has responded on similar lines by nominating Reddy, an eminent jurist from undivided Andhra Pradesh. It had considered fielding a Tamil to counter the BJP's language card but settled on a Telugu, possibly to pose a question to TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu, whose support is crucial for the Narendra Modi government, the YSR Congress, and the BRS in Telangana. Naidu has declared that his party would support Radhakrishnan, just as the DMK has stated that it would back Reddy. The Opposition wants to present the election as a fight between the RSS and the Constitution. While the NDA has clear dominance in the electoral college and no surprise is expected in the election, the two camps have done well to stage a keen and healthy fight. Hopefully, it will be waged in the right democratic spirit.

Fighting plastics: An elusive consensus

The failure of the Geneva negotiations to firm up a global plastics treaty was expected. The differences between a "high-ambition" group of nearly 70 nations, which sought global caps on virgin plastic and controls on hazardous chemicals, and a "like-minded" group of over 100 countries, which only wanted recycling, waste management, and voluntary commitments, were clear before the meeting. These differences have persisted for decades with no sign of resolution. The groups carried their uncompromising positions to the 184-nation UNEP conference, causing its collapse. It was the sixth attempt in three years to frame a binding agreement. The meeting ended without a consensus on the draft document, which tried to find a common ground. After negotiations for 10 days, it was agreed to resume talks at a future date yet to be decided.

The "high-ambition" bloc consists of the EU, Australia, some African countries, and Pacific islands. The second group consists of Russia and other oil-producing countries, and India, which has the dubious distinction of being the world's biggest plastic polluter, accounting for around 20% of the global plastic waste. The damage caused by plastics to the environment and the health of all living beings is well known. The world produces more than 430 million MT of plastic annually. Most of it is in the form of short-lived products that are dumped after use. In the absence of efficient waste management systems, the plastic waste ends up in landfills and oceans. It impacts ecosystems, biodiversity, and climate. Microplastics also enter the food system and cause irreversible damage to health.

As two contesting blocs stick to rigid positions, another attempt at a binding treaty fails

Countries in the "like-minded" bloc maintain that plastics are a part of the economy and development plans, and support livelihoods on a large scale. They want the usage to be managed in diverse ways. The contesting group points out that management efforts have not succeeded so far, and the problem can be solved only by ending or cutting down the production of plastics. This is a valid position, considering that the production and use of plastics have only increased over the years. India's ban on single-use plastics has been ineffective. Unless the two sides are ready for a compromise, there cannot be any agreement. The plastic talks have not achieved even the limited headway that climate negotiations have managed. All threats to global health and the environment are interlinked, and failure in one area impacts others. The crisis is real and growing – countries should look beyond narrow interests and see the big picture.

ON UNEQUAL FOOTING

Gender justice beyond India's north-south divide

Some northern states break gender development patterns, while new challenges emerge in the South

JYOTI THAKUR AND N MANIMEKALAI

India's performance in SDG 5 (Gender Equality and Women Empowerment) remains a significant challenge, as highlighted in NITI Aayog's 2023-24 report, where it is the only SDG India is an aspirant. In as many as 13 SDGs, it is a 'forerunner'. This reality is further underscored by the World Economic Forum's 2025 Gender Gap Report, which ranked India 131 out of 148 countries, behind several South Asian nations such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. Key areas of concern include sex ratio at birth, spousal violence, land ownership by women, wage disparity, workplace representation, and women's autonomy. Continued commitment from all stakeholders is crucial to address these disparities.

The north-south divide in gender development is a long-standing narrative in India, with southern states such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka generally excelling in education, health, work participation, and women's leadership. However, data from the recent Women and Men in India 2024 report reveals a more nuanced picture. Some northern states are showing steady progress, while certain southern states are encountering new challenges.

While Kerala reports the highest female literacy rate at 95.2%, followed by Tamil Nadu at 80.1%, Bihar and Rajasthan lag at 63.8% and 65.3%, respectively. Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, however, demonstrate female literacy rates exceeding 80%, comparable to those in the South. Jharkhand has also shown a marked improvement through initiatives such as girls' scholarships and school enrollment campaigns.

Interestingly, the pace of improvement in these smaller northern states is sometimes faster than in the larger southern states, partly due to their size allowing for broader coverage of reforms. At the same time, some southern states are facing fresh challenges, prompting questions about whether these states' historic advantage in gender development will hold in the coming years.

While female labour force participation lags behind male participation in India, some states are resisting this trend. Himachal Pradesh leads with 56.2%, followed by Chhattisgarh (46.1%), and Madhya Pradesh (39.4%). Tamil Nadu maintains a relatively strong rate of 35.2% and Karnataka stands at 30.5%. However, experts caution that the quality of work – safety, fairness, and adequate pay – is as crucial as the quantity. Andhra Pradesh, previously a leader in rural female employment, has experienced a decline due to disappearing rural jobs and insufficient childcare and training, pushing women out of the workforce.

The Periodic Labour Force Survey 2023-24 (PLFS) indicates a national increase in rural women's self-employment, potentially due to improved accounting of unpaid agricultural work, the effect of post-pandemic reverse migration, the expansion of MNREGS, etc. However, the overall persistent decline in female work participation rates

warrants further regional analysis.

Health outcomes sharply highlight the north–south divide in India. States in the south clock high rates of institutional births, with Kerala and Tamil Nadu exceeding 98%, while the northern states lag (Bihar at 76.2%, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand at around 83%). This divide is even more pronounced in maternal mortality ratios (MMR). Kerala has the lowest MMR at 19 deaths per 100,000 live births, followed by Tamil Nadu at 54, whereas Uttar Pradesh is at a high 167, and Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are in the 118-173 range.

These preventable deaths are attributable to weak health systems, inadequate care, and insufficient support for women during pregnancy and childbirth, not solely medical issues. Health systems in the southern states are commendable for their focus on universal health coverage through initiatives such as door-to-door delivery, mobile clinics, robust palliative care supported by volunteers, dedicated health workers, continuous community engagement, and an emphasis on preventive care.

Evenly underrepresented in governance

Women's representation in the state legislatures varies considerably, with neither the North nor the South consistently leading. While some of the southern states like Tamil Nadu (13%), Andhra Pradesh (13%), Karnataka, and Kerala (12%) have moderate representation, Telangana lags at 5%. In the north, Chhattisgarh (21%) and Uttar Pradesh (15%) outperform many states, as do West Bengal (14%) and Delhi (11%). In contrast, Rajasthan (3%), Punjab (11%), Himachal Pradesh (1%), and Jammu & Kashmir (2%) show significantly lower representation.

Despite India's history of prominent women leaders, most assemblies remain below the 33% quota seen in local governance, a situation potentially subject to change with the implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill. The limited representation of women in legislatures, particularly in the northern states showing progress and the southern States resisting change, is largely due to political parties' reluctance to field women candidates, even in winnable constituencies. Without a firm commitment from these parties to increase women's representation, significant progress is unlikely. Therefore, reserving seats for women in parliament and legislatures would provide a crucial impetus.

Although South India excels in many gender-related areas, progress in states like Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Uttarakhand demonstrates that the north is catching up. Meanwhile, some southern states need to refocus on issues like urban gender gaps and workforce challenges. India's gender landscape is evolving beyond a simple north-south dichotomy. Progress hinges on local leadership, cultural shifts, and sustained commitment. A comprehensive perspective is crucial for effective action. Further analysis is needed to determine if higher percentage gains in certain states, particularly in health, political participation, and female work participation, have led to greater inclusion of historically excluded populations. It's also important to examine whether relative declines in these areas in the south are context-specific and regional.

Additionally, we should investigate if the northern states' policies recognising women's participation have progressed faster due to a larger percentage of previously excluded populations. Southern states outperform the national average in economic indicators such as State Domestic Product, but this success doesn't translate into greater progress in women's participation, warranting further investigation.

(Jyoti is an associate fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research, Delhi; Manimekalai is Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies, Delhi)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A 'home stay' for a long weekend

The wish for a quiet weekend was granted – with a twist

SAHANA PRASAD

'Hey, this week has a long tail—I mean a lot of holidays! Let's plan a trip,' I chirped, bouncing with enthusiasm. My husband barely looked up from his newspaper. "Yes, a long weekend means everything is long—traffic jams, queues at tolls, eateries, and billing counters. Better stay home, eat fritters, and watch OTT. You can watch all the crowded places on the Net and be happy that we stayed at home!"

I made a face. "Be a sport! Learn from the younger generation. They go clubbing, pubbing, road-tripping, and what not! They earn, they spend, and get rid of stress that very week. As for us, we didn't enjoy ourselves while young—we were busy working. Now we're too old for anything except short trips!"

I moved away in a huff, feeling his gaze following me. A moment later, he cleared his throat. "Short trips? Speak for yourself. I'm still young enough to survive a two-hour queue for *masala dosa* at the famous hotel! You can make a reel too, of the place." He tempted me. "Hmm, practically everyone who visits that place makes reels. I want to enjoy my *dosa*, not look for angles!" I retorted.

He folded his newspaper with the solemnity of a judge delivering a verdict. "Fine. Let's go. But no trekking, no camping, and absolutely no places where the wi-fi signal is weaker than my knees."

I clapped my hands. "Yay! We'll go somewhere scenic, with good food, clean bathrooms, and zero chance of encountering wild animals or noisy teenagers." He raised an eyebrow. "So, our farmhouse?" I grinned.

"There are cows and a dog. But the watchman doesn't have kids blasting music at 2 am." I shuddered, remembering the scenes at a neighbouring flat, where a breakup party turned into a sobbing and shouting party after some drinks.

He sighed. "Alright. Let me get the car tank filled and the tyres checked." I giggled. Yes! We are beating the crowds and going on a trip! I would take loads of pictures to flaunt our farmhouse on social media.

I packed, taking care to order snacks and fruits online. He came back an hour later complaining of long queues at the petrol pump. I moved closer to him and said, "You are tired; let us stay home." "What!" I shushed him, promising to cook his favourite dishes and a new OTT subscription.

What he didn't know was that this wifely concern had only one reason – the watchman and his wife were going to their village, leaving no one to cook and clean. "A long weekend, amma, we want to visit our village," they said when I called to inform them of our visit. So our 'home stay' turned out to be calm, as most of the neighbourhood was quiet; it was a long weekend, you see!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do the proposed Bills really strengthen governance?

Apropos 'Bill: PM, CMs can lose seat if in 30-day custody' (Aug 20), given the current dispensation's propensity to use top agencies to target opposition leaders with false allegations, the proposed Bills could provide a legal means to eliminate them without electoral defeat, consolidating the Centre's hold over states and union territories. The Delhi government's experience with its former CM Arvind Kejriwal's persecution exemplifies the potential disruption to governance. The Centre's haste in moving these Bills, disregarding protocols, suggests an attempt to divert attention from the EC's alleged electoral roll manipulations and flaws in Bihar's voter list revision. The Bills' stated objectives may legitimise measures that could lead to dictatorship, surpassing the severity of the 1975 Emergency.
Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

POCSO not enough

This is with reference to 'POCSO: A worrying conviction gap' (Aug 20). The editorial highlights a concerning rise in child sexual abuse cases, rendering homes, once considered safe zones, insecure for children. The POCSO Act alone cannot combat this issue. State authorities must ensure children's safety and provide impartial treatment to perpetrators, as seen in the Madhya Pradesh vs Madanlal (2015) case. Awareness programmes should educate citizens about penalties for such crimes and children's rights to fight against them. Children should be encouraged to speak out.
Anry Haokip, Bengaluru

EC must be fair

The Election Commission's recent decision to accept Aadhaar cards as valid documents for voting in the Bihar Assembly elections is welcome. The EC's functioning has been questionable, and as a watchdog of elections, it should function fairly, inspiring voter confidence while respecting constitutional and individual rights.
S V Venkatakrishnan, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

There is a big story about why he (former VP Jagdeep Dhankhar) resigned... And then there is a story about why he is in hiding. Why is the Vice President of India in a situation where he cannot say a word? Suddenly, the person who used to burst forth in the Rajya Sabha has gone completely silent...

Rahul Gandhi, Lok Sabha LoP and Congress MP

As usual, there was a story behind the story, and that is where the truth was hidden.
Kenneth Eade

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

DPDPA gaps delay privacy promise

In the age of automation, safeguards against AI bias are critical to ensuring true privacy and equality

HARSHITA GUPTA AND UTKARSH YADAV

Eight years after the landmark *K S Puttaswamy* judgement affirmed privacy as a fundamental right, its promise remains unfulfilled. The judgement, invoking the Preamble, recognised privacy as an enabling right essential for the fulfillment of all other fundamental rights, including equality. Yet, as automation becomes pervasive across sectors like healthcare and social security, India's legal framework proves inadequate in addressing the biases and discrimination that arise.

While the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA) 2023 is a step in the right direction, it suffers from significant shortcomings. The Act's Section 7 provides for "certain legitimate uses", creating loopholes for extensive profiling and automated decisions. This allows personal data collection without explicit consent for various purposes, including state functions and employment, not just when voluntarily provided.

A more significant weakness is the Act's failure to define profiling or regulate automated decision-making. In simple terms, automated decision-making means the use of algorithms to make a decision based on certain given facts or a collection of facts. Profiling, on the other hand, means analysing various aspects of an individual to decide about them.

Although "automated processing" is defined, it is not used to grant any substantive rights to the affected individuals. This legislative lacuna is glaring, especially given the B N Srikrishna Committee's recommendations for automated safeguards. While Section 8(3) requires data fiduciaries to ensure data accuracy when making decisions that affect the data principal, it doesn't mandate a right to challenge the process itself. This opacity creates an accountability vacuum, making it virtually impossible to challenge unfair or discriminatory outcomes.

The consequences of this regulatory vacuum are profound, manifesting in tangible bias and discrimination across vital sectors. In public services, algorithmic systems like Telangana's Samagra Vedika, designed to assess welfare eligibility, have reportedly excluded approximately 15,000 marginalised individuals due to technical glitches or flawed data.

The financial sector faces a significant challenge with digital lending algorithms that can inadvertently perpetuate historical biases, leading to unequal access to credit. This was highlighted by a recent incident involving an Indian NBFC, where an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool miscategorised over 17,000 low-income applicants as high-risk. The system's bias, which favoured applicants with a strong digital footprint and extensive data, was corrected only after crucial human intervention, underscoring the vital role of the "human-in-the-loop" approach. The incident serves as a powerful reminder that while the RBI's FREE-AI framework is a proactive step, human oversight remains indispensable in AI-driven credit decisions.

People engaged in platform work are also at the mercy of algorithms and automated decision-making. Studies show that unregulated use of AI in the gig economy can be detrimental to platform workers. While states such as Rajasthan and Karnataka have passed bills to regulate platform work, these bills do not address the use of AI by companies to 'manage' their workforce.

A case for amendment

This human cost is compounded by the absence of a "right to explanation" in the DPDPA. The Act defines "gain" and "loss," but only uses these terms for monetary penalties under Section 33, not to grant relief for the tangible harm caused by automated data processing. Furthermore, since the right not to be solely subjected to automated decision-making has not been incorporated in the DPDP Act, people are left without a remedy in case of discrimination or errors in the automation process. This lack of legal remedy is against the tenet of *ubi jus remedium* (where there is a right, there is a remedy), given that privacy is a fundamental right.

This legislative vacuum in India stands in stark contrast to global frameworks. The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR) and the United Kingdom's GDPR provide crucial safeguards like mandatory Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) and the right not to be subject to solely automated decisions. These safeguards, along with the EU AI Act's classification of high-risk activities like credit assessment, impose strict requirements on providers, including human oversight and data quality checks. These crucial safeguards are missing from the DPDPA.

As we reflect on the anniversary of the *Puttaswamy* judgement, it is clear that its promise of digital rights remains unfulfilled when automated systems can discriminate without our knowledge or consent. India possesses a unique opportunity to lead in ethical AI governance by amending the DPDPA. By including a right to explanation, a clear definition of profiling, and specific regulation of automated decisions, we can fulfil the true promise of privacy and equality in the digital age.

(Utkarsh is a final-year law student at RMLNLU, Lucknow; Harshita is a student at National Law University, Jodhpur)

Can the 'daughters' revive AMMA's lost credibility?

DATELINE Thiruvananthapuram

ARJUN RAGHUNATH

There are many Malayalam films where women outshine men and challenge patriarchal systems. Now the Malayalam film industry itself is hoping for a real-life version of such a story. For the first time, a team of women has taken charge of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA), breaking its long-standing male-dominated structure.

The elite forum representing Mollywood's biggest names has been in troubled waters in recent years, largely due to its weak stance on women issues -- especially sexual assault allegations against its members. Its credibility was left in tatters.

In a tightly fought election marked by high drama, a new team led by actor Shwetha Menon as AMMA's first-ever woman president and Cuckoo Parameswaran as general secretary took charge, succeeding none other than the big 'M' of Mollywood, Mohanlal. Their task is daunting: to revive AMMA's lost credibility.

One of the biggest questions is whether the new leadership will be able to persuade a group of women actors, who walked out of AMMA, to return. They had accused the organisation of favouring actor Dileep, arrested for his alleged involvement in the abduction and sexual assault of a colleague, instead of protecting the survivor.

However, what seems to be more pressing for AMMA is to put things back on track so that its welfare activities bring much-needed relief to over a hundred yesteryear actors.

The actor assault row of 2017, the barrage of sexual allegations against known personalities like then AMMA general secretary Siddique and joint secretary Baburaj last year and the revelations of the dark sides of Mollywood in the Hema committee report have caused severe damage to AMMA. The credibility crisis has badly hit AMMA's revenue, since the association hasn't been able to organise star shows.

Formed in 1994, AMMA now has 506 members. It functions mostly as a welfare organisation, providing monthly assistance of Rs 5,000 under its 'Kaineetam' scheme to over a hundred actors who are either sick or aged. Apart from this, it takes care of the medical needs of the members. To sustain this, AMMA must revive its revenue generation activities.

The unrest over women coming to the leadership roles in the male-dominated film industry was evident from the nomination phase. Shwetha and Cuckoo faced strange allegations. Even a police case was registered against Shwetha, accusing her of performing sexually explicit roles in films. Cuckoo came under attack from the women themselves, accusing her of illegally possessing a memory card containing video footage of the women's meeting of AMMA members subsequent to the sexual assault row. The involvement of opponents like former joint secretary Baburaj, who withdrew his nomination from the presidential post after facing sexual harassment allegations, in triggering the allegations was highly suspected.

Pushing through all such roadblocks, Shwetha and Cuckoo defeated actors Devan and Ravindran, respectively. Amid widespread appreciation for breaking the entrenched male-dominance, patriarchal mindsets still found expression. "It's just old wine in a new bottle. The women were elected with the blessing of known persons like Mohanlal," commented lyricist-filmmaker Sreekumaran Thampi. Another veteran actor, Kollam Thulasi, faced much criticism for his remark, which he later termed as a joke, that "men should be ruling and women should be beneath men."

A section within AMMA argues that even the ongoing campaign that team Shwetha should bring back the women members, including the sexual assault survivor, could be a sort of pressure tactic, as it is still uncertain whether the women want to come back.

"It is not just some female actors who are keeping away from AMMA. Many male actors like Prithviraj, Fahadh Faasil and Nivin Pauly are also inactive. The focus of the new leadership should be to regain the organisation's strength by travelling in the right path and thereby attracting all members back to it, instead of succumbing to pressure to initiate negotiations for bringing back the female actors back to AMMA," said an AMMA member who preferred not to be named.

Even as the sexual assault survivor is reserving her comments on the leadership change, members of Women in Cinema Collective, which took shape subsequent to the row over the sexual assault, are of the view that AMMA should tender an apology to the sexual assault survivor for not standing with her at the time of crisis.

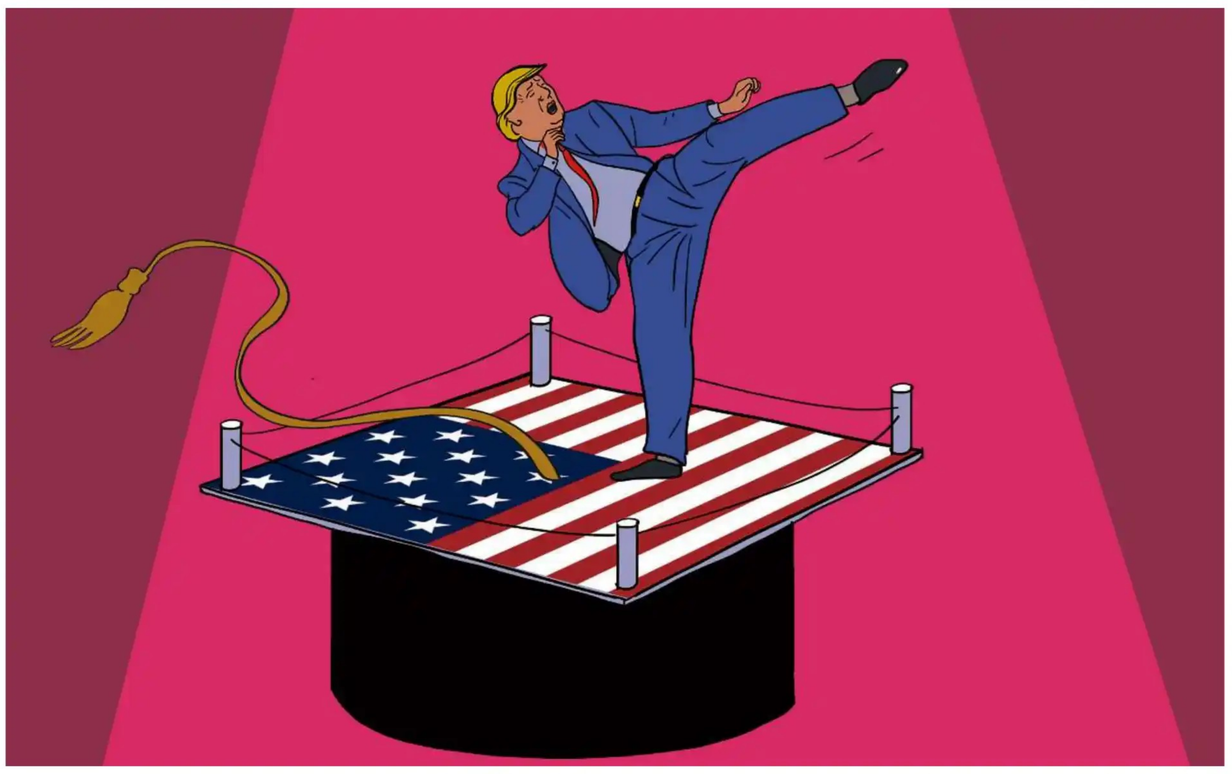
"Having women at the leadership of AMMA will obviously give more visibility and voice for women in the organisation. WCC was also looking forward to a system change that seems to be happening. But still, AMMA owes an apology to the sexual assault survivor for not staying with her at the time of crisis," WCC founder member and screenwriter Deedi Damodaran told *DH*.

Going by the initial reactions and counter-reactions, it seems that it might not be a cakewalk for the new team led by Shwetha, who is a former Miss India Asia Pacific model turned actor. The biggest challenge the team may face could be attempts by the influential male actors for backseat driving. Wholehearted support of the who's who of Mollywood, especially the big 'Ms' Mammootty and Mohanlal, will be a key factor in the efforts to regain AMMA's credibility.

DHNS

Students from some countries won't make it to class this fall because of President Trump's travel ban. Others can't get visa appointments. Some are scared. Universities are panicking

ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

International students caught in Trump's visa war

Many Iranians are not going to American universities this fall. Students from Afghanistan are having trouble getting to campus.

Even students from China and India, the top two senders of international students to the United States, have been flummoxed by a maze of new obstacles the Trump administration has set up to slow or deter people entering the country from abroad.

Between the federal government's heightened vetting of student visas and President Donald Trump's travel ban, the number of international students newly enrolled in American universities seems certain to drop — by a lot.

There were about 1 million international students studying in the United States a year ago, according to figures published by the State Department. Data on international student enrolment is not expected to be released until the fall. But higher education is already feeling the pain and deeply worried about the fallout.

Many schools have seen the number of international students grow in recent years. But a survey of more than 500 colleges and universities by the Institute of International Education, a nonprofit which works with governments and others to promote international education, found that 35% of the schools experienced a dip in applications from abroad last spring, the most since the pandemic.

In China and India, there have been few visa appointments available for students in recent months, and sometimes none at all, according to the Association of International Educators, also known as NAFSA, a professional organisation. If visa problems persist, new international student enrolment in US colleges could drop by 30% to 40% overall this fall, a loss of 150,000 students, according to the group's analysis.

Some students have given up on enrolling in US schools entirely out of anxiety over the political environment in the United States. Others are staying away because they worry that even if they were to gain entry, they would effectively be trapped, unable to do things that other students can, like apply for internships or travel home over the holidays to see their families.

International students make up a significant portion of enrolment at elite universities like Columbia University, but also at public institutions like Purdue University. At Arizona State University, one of the 10 universities that enrol the most international students, the number beginning their studies this fall — 14,600 in all — is down by about 500 from last fall, a spokesperson said, mostly because of visa delays.

Many international students pay full tuition and are a revenue source that schools have come to rely on, including to help underwrite financial aid for other students. It's part of the business model.

Wendy Wolford, vice provost for international affairs at Cornell University, said the biggest loss from the drop in international enrolment is talent.

Wolford said she was also worried about the lost opportunity for domestic students to be exposed to students from different cultures, and for international students to spread goodwill toward the United States when they return home.

The Trump administration began focusing on international students last spring, taking a number of steps to target students who were already in the country and to increase vetting of those who wanted to enrol.

In one of its first moves, the Trump administration threatened to deport more than 1,800 international students studying in the United States. In many cases, the reasons were opaque. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said that international students who were a part of campus protests over the war in the Gaza Strip, in particular, were not welcome. "We gave you a visa to come and study and get a degree," he said last spring, "not to become a social activist that tears up our university campuses."

Several groups have gone to court to challenge what they called an ideological deportation policy. Veena Dubal, general counsel for the American Association of University Professors, says the administration is violating the constitutional rights of noncitizens and citizens alike in choosing to deport people based on views that are protected by the First Amendment.

Jameel Jaffer, executive director of the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia, has argued that the crackdown is undemocratic. "This practice is one we'd ordinarily associate with the most repressive political regimes," he has said.

After an outcry, many of the students targeted for deportation were reinstated. But overall this year, State Department officials said they have revoked more than 6,000 student visas, on grounds of supporting terrorism, overstaying visas and breaking the law, a number first reported by *Fox News*.

And the State Department suspended new student visa appointments between May 27 and June 18, a time of year that is ordinarily the peak season.

When the government began issuing student visas again in late June, it was with a proviso that consulates would scrutinise applicants' social media more rigorously. That has made the process much slower, and students who have yet to clear the interview process may be in danger of missing the start of fall classes or may even have to postpone enrolment by a semester or more. "There does appear to be a heightened review of student visa applications," said Dubal, adding: "Their social media are being reviewed for expression of pro-Palestinian sentiment or critiques of Trump's foreign policy positions."

Trump signed a proclamation in late May barring foreign students from entering the United States to attend Harvard, citing security concerns, but a judge has blocked the order from taking effect.

In June, Trump signed another proclamation to fully or partially restrict the entry of people from 19 countries, including Afghanistan, Haiti, Iran, Yemen, Cuba, Laos and Venezuela, and to increase scrutiny of people from other countries, to make sure that the people "do not intend to harm Americans or our national interests."

Though the proclamation did not target students in particular, many students have been caught up in the travel restrictions.

"Because of the travel ban, it's just not possible to get student visas from certain countries," said Dan Berger, an immigration lawyer in Northampton, Massachusetts. "A lot of Afghan women had been offered full scholarships in the US and can't get visas."

Asked about delays, a State Department spokesperson said that the department had made its vetting of visa applicants more effective and more efficient. "But in every case, we will take the time necessary to ensure an applicant is eligible for the visa sought and does not pose a risk to the safety and security of the United States," the spokesperson said.

Noushin, an Iranian student who was admitted to the University of South Carolina to study for a doctorate in chemical engineering, was caught up in the travel ban. She had a visa interview in September 2024 and was to start her studies in the spring of 2025, but she has yet to hear whether her visa will be approved. She is now helping to organise a lobbying campaign to end the visa delays, and says that a chat group on Telegram suggests that there are hundreds of other Iranian students in similar situations.

Noushin, who asked for her last name not to be disclosed for fear that it would affect her visa prospects, said she chose the US to study because she believed that it offered the best higher education in the world. Now she believes she is being punished because of assumptions about her political beliefs.

Michael Crow, the president of the University of Arizona, said he met with an American diplomatic official in India a few months ago to discuss the visa problem, and was told the State Department was doing the best it could. The uncertainty about getting a US visa is prompting some students to look elsewhere. Many US universities now have campuses abroad and have tried to accommodate international students at those campuses until they can get US visas. Cornell, for instance, gave students the option to start the fall 2025 semester at its campuses in Edinburgh, Hong Kong or Seoul, South Korea.

The New York Times

In defence of the abandoned *desi* dogs

MARIAM ABUHAIDERI

Before entering animal welfare, I had no reason to reflect on difficult questions. That changed in 2020, when I began my journey in the animal rights movement. From working at a policy organisation to joining a rescue and rehabilitation NGO and finally moving into independent activism, I encountered both the best and the worst of the field.

What struck me most was not the cruelty from outsiders, but the divisions within. Why did NGOs compete rather than collaborate? Why were some activists treated as "outsiders" for breaking arbitrary rules — what one wore in government meetings, what one ate, or which "big name" one aligned with? Why did some in leadership shun those who spoke to the media or refused to stay silent about wrongdoing?

I have seen NGOs quietly euthanise healthy animals and been told to "keep quiet" when I objected. I have seen government veterinarians falsify post-mortem reports to derail cruelty cases. I have seen SPCAs without animal lovers and state welfare boards that exist only on paper. For many of us who entered with pure intent, the hardest battles have been with entrenched interests within our own community.

So why persist? Because unlike the system that has failed to act, we see the bigger picture. If friendly, vaccinated community dogs are displaced, semi-feral and feral dogs will move in—unsocialised, unvaccinated, and unsafe. That not only threatens public safety but also erases years of vaccination and sterilisation efforts, the only humane and scientifically proven methods of population control worldwide.

We do this because we know what policymakers ignore: dogs play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. And yet beyond science, what sustains us are those wagging tails at the end of long days.

But something changed on August 11 when a bench of the Supreme Court issued an order that sent shockwaves across the country. This wasn't about one cruelty case in one city. It was about all of us. It was about India's street dogs being branded as nuisances to be removed. The Rajasthan High Court echoed the order. For the first time, animal lovers across India felt the ground slip from beneath them.

Many applauded the judgement, believing it would protect the children. Some even argued that it would "save" dogs. The truth is darker. The SC has overturned decades of scientific consensus and constitutional compassion. This is not a rescue plan. It is a death sentence in disguise.

The ruling states that once dogs are picked up, they can never be released—not even if sterilised, vaccinated, or healthy. They cannot be adopted either. Every petition and scientific suggestion from experts, veterinarians, and welfare groups was denied a hearing. And in that silence, a roadmap emerges—not for public safety, but for commercial exploitation. With no indies left to adopt, families will be nudged towards a cruel supply chain of pedigree puppies – puppies from unlicensed shops, pet shops, and online sales, riddled with cruelty. Rules regulating breeders exist, but enforcement is weak; this order opens the floodgates.

Street dogs are not a social inconvenience; they are part of an ecological system that sustains balance in cities. By scavenging waste and competing with other species, they keep rat and rodent populations in check. Remove them, and the void is filled not by safety but by vermin -- rodents and mammals that can spread rabies and other diseases far harder to control.

History warns us. In the Netherlands, 19th-century dog culling coincided with one of Europe's worst rabies outbreaks. More recently, cities attempting mass dog removal have seen spikes in leptospirosis, a bacterial infection spread by rat urine that thrives in urban flooding.

This judgement is not a solution but an erasure: of millions of innocent lives, of *desi* dogs who have lived beside us for centuries, and of the moral fabric that defines us as a people.

The SC verdict, shocking as it was, did what decades of infighting could not: it united us.

So I must say this — to Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan: we strongly oppose your judgement, and we will fight it with every fibre of our being. But we also thank you. For in trying to silence India's dogs, you have awakened their human protectors.

Today, from Delhi to Jaipur, from Mumbai to small towns, we are speaking in one voice. For Kali, for Bhuru, for Rani — for every street dog who has wagged a tail at us, guarded us, lived with us. The government and media may try to pit neighbours against each other. The courts may ignore precedents and official data. Supporters may celebrate this as a triumph. But what the Court has done is remind us of who we are. We are the voice of India's animals. We are the inheritors of Gandhi's Ahimsa. And we will not let this country go down in history as the land that abandoned its vulnerable.

(The writer is an animal rights activist)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: AUGUST 1975

Jagjivan hopes engineers can find a solution to Cauvery row

Madras, August 20
Union Agriculture Minister Jagjivan Ram today suggested a meeting of the engineers of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala to iron out the differences among them over the sharing and economising of the Cauvery waters. Addressing a news conference, he said such a meeting would help to thrash out the technical problems. He said that since the Cauvery waters were being utilised fully, any further allotment or distribution could be made only out of water saved.

25 YEARS AGO: AUGUST 2000

Fake stamp paper racket busted

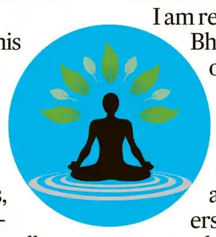
Bangalore, Aug 20
In the biggest-ever haul in the State, the city police on Saturday seized counterfeit stamps and stamp papers valued at around Rs. 10 crore and arrested 10 people who were selling the fake papers to various banks, public and private sector financial institutions in the City and outside. Cash of Rs. 34.40 lakh was also seized from them. The interrogation revealed that the fake stamps and stamp papers were being supplied from Mumbai.

OASIS | MEERA SESHADRI

The delicate balance of relationships

An acquaintance's son has a strange proclivity for switching jobs every six months. The reason: the remunerations, received from his companies, in return for his 'remarkable' efforts, are not rewarding enough! But the truth may be different; he could be a veritable work-shirker, ever scouting ways of skiving off his work, saddling others with the same, as he is long known to be against slogging.

Apparently, expectations of enormous benefits with abysmally low efforts would not allow one to work anywhere for long, even if the work ambience is conducive for assiduous working. Well, there is a flip side, too, as to why one keeps flipping the jobs.



Some time ago, someone I know had started a small business, hiring several workers. But this proprietor, a penny-pincher, proffered neither good pay nor perquisites in trying to enthuse employees to work with passion. Being fixated with the firm's future success, he failed to focus on his workers' financial well-being. Naturally, workers soon decided to quit *en masse*!

Evidently, a healthy employer-employee relationship has to be unequivocally two-sided, which needs investment of time, involvement, and intense efforts from both sides. Here, I am reminded of the most famed Bhavani fashion accessories outlets in Bengaluru. The one near the Netkallappa area, headed by Chandrashekar, and the other, at Jayanagar, owned by Srinivas. What is amazing is that some 60 workers, working in each store, have stayed with them, with unwavering loyalty and unshakeable commitment, for decades!

The secret behind their sincerity could be – besides a good pay package, perks and delectable food served daily – the respect and care each worker receives from their employers. No wonder then, with this robust employer-employee bond, both the Bhavani outlets are ever brimming over with bevvies of breezy clients.

In any workplace, the employer-employee equation is indeed of immense importance. And that each party has a phenomenal role to play in the progress and prosperity of the establishment. Yes, with the right chemistry, a symbiotic relation can be forged, where both sides get rewarded richly!

Agni-5 intermediate range ballistic missile successfully test-fired

Launch validates all operational and technical parameters: Govt

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

MISSILE CAPABILITIES

- 'Agni-5' intermediate range ballistic missile has a range of up to 5,000 km.
- The missile can bring almost the entire Asia, including the northernmost part of China, as well as some regions in Europe under its striking range.

India on Wednesday successfully test-fired its intermediate range ballistic missile Agni-5 that can hit a target at a distance of around 5,000 km.

"Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile Agni-5 was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha on August 20. The launch validated all operational and technical parameters," the defence ministry said in a statement.

The test was carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command, which is the user of the weapon.

While the ministry statement is silent on the missile's range, last week a NOTAM (notice to airmen) was issued warning the airlines around the world about an impending trial that would require a missile to travel a distance of nearly 4,800 km.

Agni-5 was tested by the Defence Research and Development Organisation for the first time in 2012, marking New Delhi's entry into a small club of nations that can develop intercontinental-range ballistic missiles.

After half a dozen developmental trials, it was handed over to the Strategic Forces Command, which carried out the first user trial in 2021.

The nuclear-capable, 17.5 meter long missile weighing 50 tons is a three-stage rocket that incorporates several key homegrown technologies.

They include composite rocket motor, state-of-the-art avionics, 5th generation 'On Board Computer' distributed architecture, highly accurate Ring Laser Gyro-based inertial navigation system (RINS), reliable redundant micro navigation system and a re-entry kit shield that withstands temperature with more than 4,000 degree Celsius ensuring that avionics function normally by maintaining an inside temperature less than 50 degrees Celsius.

The missile test comes a week ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit to be held at Tianjin on August 31-September 1.

As a part of the preparatory visit, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's was in New Delhi on August 18-19, during which he met the Prime Minister.

Cyberabad police bust Rs 850-cr investment fraud; 2 arrested

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Cyberabad Police has successfully dismantled a massive organised financial fraud operation that exploited advanced AI-powered investment platforms and Ponzi scheme tactics.

The perpetrators defrauded more than 3,000 individuals across multiple states, collecting approximately Rs 850 crore by promising steady monthly returns through deceptive stock market prediction software.

Police arrested two key figures behind the network, Gaddam Venugopal and Shreyas Paul, a native of Ballari in Karnataka. The operation employed over 20 consultants and agents across major cities, along with technical developers and website administrators, to execute the elaborate fraud.

The fraudsters operated IIT Capital Technologies with a fake registered address in Madhapur, Hyderabad, and other companies including AV Solutions based at Sri Nidhi Nest, Kondapur, Hyderabad, Srinivas Analytics Pvt Ltd, and Trade Bulls Technology Pvt Ltd as new front companies.

They used proxy domain registrations with privacy shields to conceal ownership and hosted their operations on Amazon Web Services (AWS) to obscure operator identities. The duo also displayed fake SEBI, NSE, and BSE registration numbers for credibility.

To establish legitimacy, they organised investment seminars across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

'Brain-eating' amoeba infections on rise in Kerala

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Amoebic meningoencephalitis, generally regarded as a rare disease, has seen a spike in Kerala this year, with eight confirmed cases and two reported deaths so far.

Three cases were detected in different parts of Kozhikode district over the past few days, while an 11-year-old girl in Malappuram was reported to be showing symptoms. She is currently under treatment for fever.

A nine-year-old girl who died last week in Kozhikode was confirmed to have been infected, while her two siblings are showing symptoms. A three-month-old infant and a 49-year-old man have also tested positive and are undergoing treatment.

The deceased girl had contracted the infection from a pond near her home, while the 49-year-old man was likely infected through water from his household well. The source of infection for the three-month-old child is yet to be identified.

The exact cause of infection in many cases remains unclear. Factors such as contamination of waterbodies due to unscientific waste disposal, shifting climate patterns, increased movement of migrant workers, and even improved diagnostic capabilities are all being considered as possible contributors to the rising case numbers.

The only relief for Kerala is that the death rate from this rare brain infection has been contained at 25%, lower than the global average of 97%. Health officials attribute the reduced mortality to early detection and the implementation of a treatment protocol involving the administration of Miltefosine.

Experts are calling for urgent research to understand the sudden spike in cases. The free-living amoeba is found in contaminated water sources. While the general perception was that kids are more susceptible, several adult cases have also emerged in Kerala.

Former WHO technical officer Dr SS Lal said that strengthening grassroots surveillance and screening migrant populations could help curb the spread of rare diseases in state.

Editors Guild slams YouTube for taking down senior journalist Ruben's channel

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Editors Guild of India on Wednesday criticised YouTube for the abrupt removal of a channel run by its general secretary and senior journalist Ruben Banerjee, calling it a disturbing attack on press freedom in the digital space.

Banerjee's Odia-language YouTube channel "Mu Ruben Kahuchhi" (I am Ruben Speaking) was launched in September 2024, and was taken down late on August 4 without prior warning or explanation.

"On August 4, 2025, at 11.15 pm, Banerjee received an electronic communication from YouTube alleging a violation of its 'Circumvention Policy' and informing him of the channel's removal," said the guild in a statement.

'Denial of natural justice'

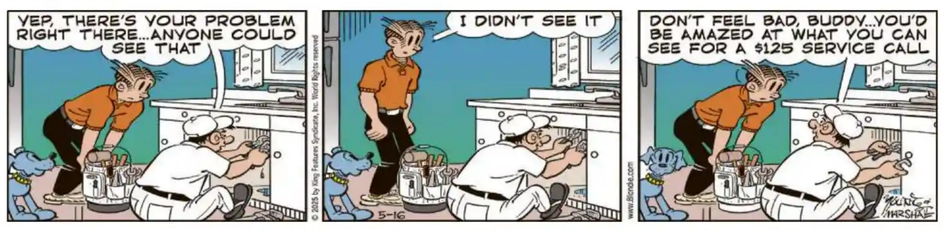
"This action was taken without any prior strike, warning, showcause notice, or disclosure of the specific content or conduct said to constitute the alleged violation — thereby denying him the opportunity to be heard and amounting to a denial of natural justice," it added.

"Such arbitrary actions highlight the dangers of opaque enforcement mechanisms that undermine press freedom in the digital space, and the sweeping control exercised by platforms that now function as near monopolies," said the guild.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie


VEP, THERE'S YOUR PROBLEM RIGHT THERE...ANYONE COULD SEE THAT
I DIDN'T SEE IT
DON'T FEEL BAD, BUDDY...YOU'D BE AMAZED AT WHAT YOU CAN SEE FOR A $125 SERVICE CALL

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

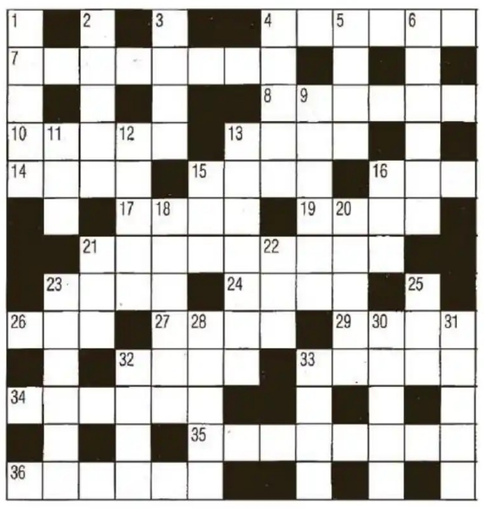
I'LL HAVE A GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH
KEEPING IT SIMPLE TODAY, HUH?
...WITH CHEDDAR, SWISS, PROVOLONE, PEPPER JACK, GOUDA, HAVARTI, ASADERO, PARMESAN, EDAM...
GREG HORT WALKER

Peanuts

ALL RIGHT, LET'S SEE WHAT WE HAVE HERE FOR OUR EVENING MEAL..
I BROUGHT THE HOT DOGS... WOODSTOCK BROUGHT THE BUNS...
CONRAD BROUGHT THE MUSTARD... BILL BROUGHT THE CATSUP..
AND OLIVIER BROUGHT THE TV GUIDE!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12230



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Dad's the skipper, dear fellow (3,3)
7 Two saloons I see as vulgar (8)
8 Many a proposition may have money in it (6)
10 Occupy or employ for half a day (5)
13 Polish expert? (4)
14 A match of the greatest interest (4)
15 Being unfree, he was among the lesser fry (4)
16 Just outstanding (3)
17 Regrettably mimicking a girl (4)
19 She appears in comedies (4)
21 Possibly deter pals from getting drunk (9)
23 Is such fiction mushy? (4)
24 Bottom place for service? (4)
26 The director's share of the proceeds? (3)
27 It's no good being needy (4)
29 It's dull for a doctor and a sailor (4)
32 Silvery sort of light? (4)
33 It's dramatically different from a whisper (5)
34 In the CIA, no gentleman might be called a "bug" (6)
35 Records an attempt at needlework (8)
36 It's gladly given by an admirer (3,3)

DOWN
1 Vessel about to be rebuilt (1-4)
2 Watchful guardian, a warm-hearted fellow (5)
3 Her nest, one imagines, is no great find (4)
4 Happen, in our case, to be a cricket club (5)
5 It's no good saying he can't play football (4)
6 There's even a diversion going round a bend in the road! (6)
9 Chances of getting terrible refs! (6)
11 People from Armenia (3)
12 A stand seat (5)
13 Finest fellow in film making (4,3)
15 Initially a special service (3)
16 Passed up again (3)
18 Well overtaken by a chap possessing extraordinary pep (6)
20 Acts of a dunderhead scattering seed (5)
21 Place in the heart of Rajputana (3)
22 In the army, it means "attention" (3)
23 Perhaps endlessly pushing to exact retribution (6)
25 Not the gentlemanly part of Piccadilly (3)
28 Give one's address (5)
30 Possibly first signs of disunity (5)
31 She may be emerald green! (5)
32 Vessel to save from break-up? (4)
33 To conclude, should this not be "a man"? (4)

EASY

ACROSS
4 Capricious (6)
7 Unnatural (8)
8 Expects (6)
10 Amid (5)
13 Ship's company (4)
14 Information (4)
15 Region (4)
16 Opposite of old (3)
17 Active and brisk (4)
19 Move (4)
21 Acrobatic movement (9)
23 Ring of light (4)
24 Lubricates (4)
26 Titfer (3)
27 Crossbow arrow (4)
29 A false step (4)
32 Unable to hear (4)
33 Willow (5)
34 Evaluate (6)
35 Herb type (8)
36 Against (6)

DOWN
1 Cold dish (5)
2 Gold bar (5)
3 Amphibian (4)
4 Distress signal (5)
5 Talon (4)
6 Second of two (6)
9 Stoat-like mammal (6)
11 Orienteering item (3)
12 Of the nose (5)
13 Give a false alarm (3,4)
15 Skill (3)
16 Nothing (3)
18 Searches into closely (6)
20 Experiments (5)
21 Feline animal (3)
22 A strike (3)
23 Harass (6)
25 Perish (3)
28 Hop-drying kilns (5)
30 Encircles (5)
31 Mischievous joke (5)
32 Lairs (4)
33 Rowing blades (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12229

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Redcap 7, Lur-Cher-s 8,To-d-O 10, Cornet 11, Ar-ca-de 14, Eel 16, Paper 17, E-we-S 19, Sup-er 21, Diver 22, Pe-t-er 23, D- rat 26, R-emit 28, MO-o 29, O-RA-tor 30, Canary 31, Hear 32, La- cera-te 33, Feeler.
DOWN: 1, Rescu-e 2, Cr.-ones 3, P(i)lot 4, Scar-per 5, R-ecap 6, Osier 8,Tree 9, Del 12, C(le)ar 13, Delia 15, Duvet 18, Water 19, Sit 20, Per 21, D-etours 22, Pit 23, Donate 24, Roar 25,Taylor 26, Rolls 27, Match 28, Ma-E 30, Chef.

EASY
ACROSS: 1,Treble 7, Pinnacle 8, Stye 10, Bootee 11, Attune 14, Fin 16, Hotel 17, Span 19, Bogey 21,Tower 22, Doyen 23, Step 26, Eaves 28, Far 29, Sleeps 30, Marina 31, Atom 32, Abstract 33, En- gine.
DOWN: 1,Tribes 2, Butt in 3, Epee 4, Another 5, Scout 6, Jewel 8, Sofa 9, Yen 12,Toy 13, Nerve 15, Power 18, Petal 19, Boy 20, Gen 21,To spare 22, Dee 23, Sarong 24,Trim 25, Plaque 26, Essay 27, Verse 28, Fat 30, Mate.

◆SU-DO-KU-6681◆

	2				9			
7				5				6
		6	2	4			1	
	6			1		3	5	
4				3				2
	3	2		6			9	
	7			9	6	1		
1				8				9
			3				4	

medium

SOLUTION TO 6680

9	3	8	7	4	1	6	2	5
2	5	7	6	8	3	9	4	1
4	1	6	5	9	2	8	7	3
6	8	5	9	7	4	1	3	2
3	7	2	1	5	8	4	6	9
1	4	9	2	3	6	7	5	8
7	2	3	8	6	9	5	1	4
8	6	4	3	1	5	2	9	7
5	9	1	4	2	7	3	8	6

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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R1	U1	O1	B3	M3	H4	S1	2nd Letter Triple	RACK 1
D2	A1	I1	O1	L1	R1	C3	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
L1	A1	A1	A1	D2	C3	U1	Double Word Score	RACK 3
A1	E1	C3	R1	T1	L1	S1		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 185-195
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

F4	A1	B3	R1	I1	C3	S1	RACK 1 =	92
C3	O1	M3	M3	I1	T1		RACK 2 =	18
I1	N1	T1	R1	O1	N1		RACK 3 =	6
O1	R1	A1	T1	I1	O1	N1	RACK 4 =	71
P3	E1	N1	N1	O1	N1	S1	RACK 5 =	59

PAR SCORE 160-170 JUDD'S TOTAL 246

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UDEOS

TWESE

MFEULB

VOJLIA

We were looking for something a little more turnkey.
Do you have another house to show us?
It's in your budget. It just needs a little TLC.
2/13
THEY WERE LOOKING FOR AN AFFORDABLE HOME, BUT THE FIRST ONE THEY SAW DIDN'T ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LARVA DRANK FICKLE GOBLET
Answer: Getting deals done at a swap meet usually involves some — GIVE AND TAKE

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HITORI-3135

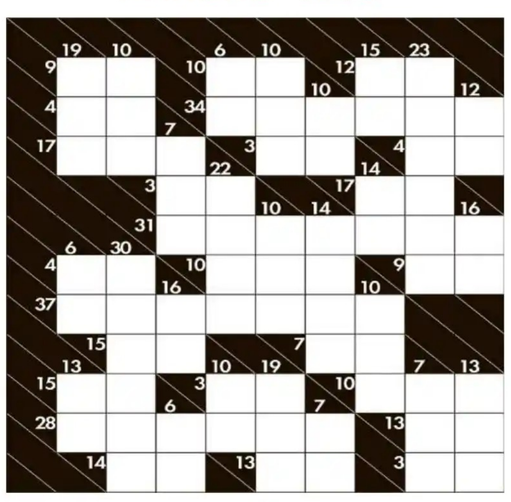
7	4	3	1	6	6	4	2
2	7	4	6	4	5	3	3
6	8	2	4	1	3	5	1
1	3	4	3	2	6	3	6
3	6	3	2	1	1	7	8
6	5	7	3	3	2	1	4
5	2	3	3	8	7	6	6
3	3	6	1	7	4	1	5

SOLUTION TO 3134

1	6	5	■	7	■	8	4
3	■	2	5	8	4	■	7
■	2	4	■	1	3	7	6
4	5	■	1	■	6	■	2
■	1	7	6	2	■	5	■
7	■	8	■	4	1	6	5
6	4	■	7	■	5	■	3
■	8	6	2	3	7	4	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3135



SOLUTION TO 3134

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3653

■				5	9			■
	■			4			■	7
		■				■	6	
1	8		■		6			
				7			5	
			■		■	2		6
		■				8	4	
	■	4		2			1	
■					4		7	5

SOLUTION TO 3652

9	5	8	7	2	6	1	4	3
3	6	4	5	1	8	7	9	2
1	2	7	3	9	4	8	6	5
6	9	3	4	8	7	5	2	1
4	7	1	9	5	2	3	8	6
5	8	2	1	6	3	9	7	4
7	1	6	8	4	5	2	3	9
8	4	5	2	3	9	6	1	7
2	3	9	6	7	1	4	5	8

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

BIHAR POLL PLANK: Centre seeks to highlight Oppn's resistance to anti-corruption measures

Govt uses anti-graft bills to turn up heat on Oppn

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Ahead of the crucial Bihar elections, the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre has sought to make corruption in high constitutional offices a poll plank by introducing three bills that bar the prime minister, chief ministers and other ministers from remaining in office if they are taken into custody for serious offences.

"Now the people of the country need to decide: Is it right for a minister, chief minister, or prime minister to run a government from jail?" Home Minister Amit Shah posted on X after the introduction of the bill.

The BJP and its ally JD(U) are pitched against Lalu Yadav's RJD-led I.N.D.I.A bloc in Bihar that goes to the polls in October. Lalu and his family are currently embroiled in several corruption cases.

The sharp political divide on the three bills piloted by the Union Home Ministry could provide the NDA and its allies a poll position to counter the combative RJD-Congress combine that has sought to corner the government and the Election Commission on the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and Rahul Gandhi's Bihar Yatra against alleged "vote theft".

Senior government sources said that while the ruling party or the NDA lacks a two-thirds majority in either House — a prerequisite for the passage of bills — the government aims to show that the Opposition stands opposed to a move intended to weed out corruption.

"We are not asking for support for the bills, but let them tell people that they endorse a system where a government can be run by a chief minister or prime minister even from behind bars," a senior minister said.

To this end, Shah, who introduced the legislation amid ruckus in the Lok Sabha, said that PM Narendra Modi has brought in the bill to "bring himself into the ambit of law".

"On the other hand, under the leadership of Congress, the entire Opposition has opposed it in order to remain above the law, run governments from jail, and cling to power. The nation also remembers the time when, in this very august House, then PM Indira Gandhi, through Constitutional Amendment No. 39, granted special privilege to the prime minister, ensuring that no legal action could be taken against her," Shah posted on X.

The Kejriwal case

Sources said the government first considered the bill after the Delhi High Court ruled in March last year that there was "no legal bar in running the government from jail", following the incarceration of then CM Arvind Kejriwal in a graft case.

Government sources also said that they felt the need for the bill since the Constitution does not have any provision.

As the bill was introduced, Shah came under attack from the Congress, which pointed out that he himself had once been arrested. "I resigned even before being arrested. I did not hold any constitutional position, even after being released on bail, until the court fully acquitted me," Shah responded.

Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar said that the Opposition created a ruckus when the bill was introduced and that the way the copy of the bill was torn and thrown at Shah's face was condemnable.

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari questioned how a person with serious criminal cases registered against them could continue to hold public office. "The public will teach a lesson to those who want people involved in serious criminal cases to stay in power," he said.

Cong questions BJP's 'morality', Shah hits back

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Opposition MPs on Wednesday opposed the introduction of three bills — seeking the removal of the prime minister, chief ministers, and ministers under arrest for 30 days in a row — in the Lok Sabha, saying they violated the basic structure of the Constitution. The MPs alleged that the bills were aimed at Opposition-ruled states and to threaten leaders.

As he introduced the three bills, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said he wanted morality in politics so that no one facing allegations remained in Constitutional posts.

He also rejected suggestions that the bills were brought in haste, saying they were being sent to a Joint Parliamentary Committee for further scrutiny even as MPs claimed they would transform the country into a police state.

K C Venugopal and Shah squared off as the senior Congress MP referred to his arrest in a case, saying BJP leaders were claiming that the Bills were meant to enhance morality in politics and asked whether he resigned considering morality.

Shah shot back, saying, "A fabricated case was slapped on me. I resigned even before my arrest, and did not take up any Constitutional post till my name was cleared by the courts."

Venugopal said the bills were aimed at "sabotaging" the federal structure and targeting Opposition-ruled states. Tewari said the bills "squarely destroy the basic structure" of the Constitution, as the rule of law makes it clear that a person is innocent until proven guilty.

"These bills make an investigating officer the boss of the PM... They distort Parliamentary democracy by displacing the will of the people... These bills open the doors for political misuse through arbitrary conduct..., repeatedly frowned upon by the SC," he said.

Tewari also said the bills "throw out all Constitutional safeguards — collective responsibility, judicial review, no-confidence motion, and disqualification — to the wind. They are excessive, unnecessary, unconstitutional, and should be withdrawn".

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said the bills gave executive agencies "free hand (to be) judge, jury, and the executioner based on allegations and suspicions." He added: "This would leave the CMs and ministers under the mercy of agencies... The government is creating a police state."

RAHUL GANDHI
Leader of Opposition in the LS

"There's a lot of action going on the new bill that the BJP is proposing. We are going back to medieval times when the king could just remove anybody at will. There is no concept of what an elected person is. He doesn't like your face, so he tells the ED to file a case and then democratically-elected person is wiped out within 30 days. This is new.

M K STALIN
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

"This is how DICTATORSHIPS begin: Steal votes, Silence rivals and Crush States. The Union BJP government has decided to defile the Constitution and its democratic foundations by turning India into a dictatorship under the Prime Minister.

PINARAYI VIJAYAN
Kerala Chief Minister

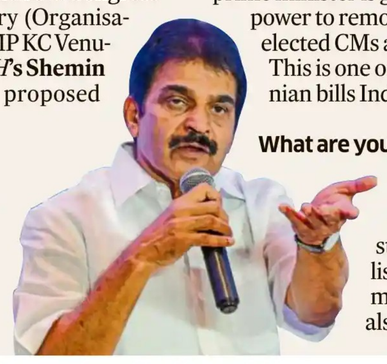
"The Sangh Parivar's new attempt can only be seen as part of the political decision of the Union government to destabilise non-BJP governments in the country. This is a continuation of the politics of vendetta and trapping of political opponents using central investigative agencies.

MAMATA BANERJEE
West Bengal Chief Minister

"I condemn the 130th Constitutional Amendment Bill, proposed to be tabled by the Government of India today. I condemn it as a step towards something that is more than a super-Emergency, a step to end the democratic era of India forever. This draconian step comes as a death knell for democracy and federalism in India.

Bills target Opposition-ruled states... This is a war on democracy: Venugopal

The Narendra Modi government has introduced three bills, including one to amend the Constitution, to provide for provisions to remove the prime minister, chief ministers and other ministers if they remain in custody for 30 days in a row. Congress General Secretary (Organisation) and senior MP KC Venugopal spoke to *DH*'s **Shemin Joy** about the proposed legislation.



What are your views on the bills?
They want to introduce a real emergency in this country. This is the murder of democracy and the federal system. If the Centre so decides, it can jail any minister for 30 days. You will be removed from power even if there is no charge-sheet or conviction. This means the prime minister is getting indirect power to remove democratically elected CMs and ministers.

This is one of the most draconian bills India has ever seen.

What are your objections?
The clear motive is to target Opposition-ruled states and destabilise those governments. They are also doing electoral malpractices through the Special Intensive Revision.

Do you think this is a diversionary tactic amid allegations of 'vote chori'?
This is an attempt at headline management. Another purpose is to divert attention from Rahul Gandhi's 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar, which is drawing a tremendous response. They know the public believes there is 'vote chori'.

The argument is that a minister in custody may 'thwart or hinder the canons of constitutional morality'.
If a person has not been convicted and the allegations against them are yet to be proven, can you call them a culprit? Can you imagine a BJP CM or minister being arrested under this provision? This move is aimed at Opposition-ruled states. It's also a threat to allies like N Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar. This is a war on democracy.

Why do you think this is a war on democracy?
Just look at the conviction rate of cases filed by the Enforcement Directorate — it's just 1%. Take the case of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who was arrested by the ED. Even the Supreme Court said that his prolonged detention was unjustified. Now they are trying to overcome these curbs through the bills.

CSDS co-director booked over wrong voter data on Maha polls

MUMBAI, DHNS: A day after Sanjay Kumar, the co-director of Lokniti-CSDS, ignited a political storm by withdrawing his posts on Maharashtra elections, leading to criticism against Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, the Nagpur police have filed an FIR against the prominent psephologist.

The FIR has been filed under multiple sections of the BNS, including sections 175, 353(1)(b), 212, and 340(1)(2), indicating charges related to false information and potential election-related violations.

More details are awaited.

Sanjay Kumar, in a post on X, said: "I sincerely apologise for the tweets posted regarding Maharashtra elections. An error occurred while comparing data of 2024 Lok Sabha and 2024 Assembly elections. The data in row was misread by our Data team. The tweet has since been removed. I had no intention of dispersing any form of misinformation."

After Sanjay Kumar's post, Amit Malviya, the Incharge of BJP's National Information & Technology Department, slammed the CSDS and Rahul Gandhi.

Ex-CM Digambar, Tawadkar to join Goa cabinet; Sequeira resigns

PANAJI, PTI: Former chief minister Digambar Kamat and present assembly Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar would be inducted in the Goa cabinet on Thursday, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said.

The announcement by Sawant, who returned from Delhi late Wednesday evening, came hours after minister Aleixo Sequeira resigned citing personal reasons, and Tawadkar said he would resign as Speaker.

"Both of them (Kamat and Tawadkar) would be sworn in at 12 noon at Raj Bhavan," Sawant told reporters at the airport.

Earlier in the day, Sequeira, minister for Environment, Law and Judiciary and Legislative Affairs, tendered his resignation. When asked by reporters in Margao, his constituency, Kamat indirectly confirmed that he would join the cabinet. "See you at Raj Bhavan tomorrow," he said.

Kamat, 71, headed the Congress government in Goa from 2007 to 2012 before the party was ousted by Manohar Parrikar-led BJP in state elections. In 2022, he joined the BJP along with a few other Congress MLAs.

Thackeray cousins out for a duck in BEST polls

MUMBAI, DHNS: As the Thackeray cousins — Uddhav and Raj — took baby steps in the run-up to Maharashtra's mega local bodies' elections, their efforts received a setback as their joint panel was bowled out for a duck in the high-voltage elections to the BrihanMumbai Electricity Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST) Employees Cooperative Credit Society Ltd.

The alliance was significant as it came ahead of the polls to the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation.

The BEST credit cooperative has 21 seats, and 12,656 of the 15,123 members (83.69%) cast their votes on Monday. The counting of votes started on Tuesday and continued till the early hours of Wednesday. The panel led by labour leader Shashank Rao won 14 seats, and the Shramik Panel led by BJP legislator Prasad Lad, a close aide of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, secured seven seats.

The result was a shocker for Shiv Sena (UBT) head Uddhav Thackeray and MNS president Raj Thackeray as the Utkarsha Panel — comprising the BEST Kamgar Sena and MNS Kamgar Sena — lost on all the seats.

Govt taking country back to medieval times: Congress

Rahul says should not forget why VP polls needed

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge felicitates joint Opposition's VP candidate B Sudershan Reddy in New Delhi. PTI

Leaders of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday found fault with the three Bills seeking removal of Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and Ministers under arrest for 30 days in a row, claiming that the government is taking the country back to medieval times when the king could just remove anybody at will.

Both were speaking at the felicitation of the Opposition's joint Vice presidential candidate Justice B Sudershan Reddy at the Central Hall of 'Samvidhan Sadan', the old Parliament Building.

"There is a lot of action going on about the new Bills that the BJP is proposing. We are going back to medieval times when the king could just remove anybody at will. There is no concept of what an elected person is. He doesn't like your face, so he tells ED to put a case, and then a democratically elected person is wiped out within 30 days," Rahul, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, said in his first comments on the contentious bills.

Kharge, the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, said the Bills that "undermine" the core values of parliamentary democracy and federalism are being "introduced in subterfuge" at the fag end of the Monsoon Session.

In the last 11 years, he said, "We have witnessed the blatant misuse of parliamentary majority to arm the autonomous agencies like ED, I-T, and CBI with draconian powers to target opposition leaders. Now, these new bills are set to become instruments in the hands of the ruling party to further undermine and destabilise democratically elected governments in the states."

Rahul also referred to former VP Jagdeep Dhankhar, whose resignation has led to the latest election, and said they should not forget why they were electing a new VP.

"There is a big story about why he resigned. Some of you might know it, some of you might not know it, but there is a story behind it, and then there is a story about why he is in hiding. Why is the Vice President of India in a situation where he cannot say a word? Suddenly, the person who used to burst forth in the Rajya Sabha has gone silent, completely silent. So this is the time we are living in," he said.

Rahul said they were supporting Justice Reddy because there is a fight going on between those who are attacking the Constitution and those who are defending it.

Introducing Reddy, Kharge said the opposition decided to field someone who has been dedicated to constitutional principles, and Reddy is a "towering figure" in Indian jurisprudence.

He said Justice Reddy is renowned for his unwavering commitment to justice and has been a fearless champion of social, economic, and political equality.

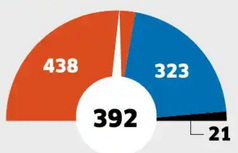
NOMINATION FILED

NUMBER GAME

Electors: Sitting MPs

Lok Sabha:	Rajya Sabha:
542 (1 seat vacant)	240 (5 seats vacant)

Total Electors: 782



NDA (Including 11 YSRCP MPs have extended support to NDA)
Opposition
Undecided

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flanked by Maharashtra Governor and NDA's vice presidential candidate CP Radhakrishnan, Union ministers and others, hands over 4 sets of nomination papers to returning officer. PTI

Delhi CM attacked during public event at residence; man held

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta was attacked during a public hearing at her residence on Wednesday morning. She has suffered injuries to her hand and head.

A man approached the chief minister during a 'Jansunwai' and attacked her. The security personnel immediately caught him.

The man, who claims to be an animal lover from Rajkot, has been arrested under the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita under the attempt to murder sections.

The man, Rajesh Sakriya, approached Gupta and slapped her and then pushed her. Sources said that before the security personnel overpowered him, he also pulled her hair.

Rekha Gupta

In addition to the attempt to murder sections, he is now also charged with attacking a public servant and obstructing a public servant sections. He was opposed to the Supreme Court's ruling on stray dogs.

The Chief Minister's Office has described the attack as 'premeditated'.

"CCTV footage has revealed that the attacker had begun preparations for the assault at least 24 hours in advance. The footage shows the attacker conducting a recce of the CM's residence, recording videos there, and attempting a premeditated attack. This video has been handed over to the police, and a thorough investigation is underway," a communication by the chief minister's office said.

Former CM Atishi said there is no place for violence in a democracy.

"The attack on Chief Minister Rekha Gupta is highly condemnable. In a democracy, there is a place for disagreement and protest, but there is no place for violence. Hoping that the Delhi Police will take the strictest action against the culprits. It is hoped that the CM is completely safe," Atishi said.

RURAL INCLUSION

Stocks & savings: Panchayat officials to get market-wise

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In an effort to promote financial literacy at the grassroots level, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), in collaboration with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), has launched a nationwide training programme for panchayat members and block-level officials of Panchayati Raj institutions. The initiative focuses on financial planning, investment in equities — including stocks and mutual funds — and safeguarding against fraudulent investment schemes.

According to a statement from the ministry, the programme aims to empower local representatives with the knowledge needed to educate rural communities across India, thereby strengthening investor awareness and financial inclusion.

"By involving Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), the initiative aims to unlock the vast untapped potential of rural India, ensuring that securities market participation becomes geographically balanced and inclusive," it said.

The first such training programme was held earlier this month in Pune, where over 100 sarpanches and block-level representatives from various districts participated. The programme focused on equipping elected officials with essential knowledge on financial planning, savings, investments, protection against fraudulent schemes, and available investment avenues within the regulated space. Similar training sessions are underway in other regions.

The programme aims to empower 2.5 lakh panchayats across the country and promote inclusive participation in the securities market. Training will cover practical financial skills, including understanding the securities market, identifying regulated investment opportunities, budgeting, saving, insurance and safe investment practices.

In India, the number of mutual fund investors has more than doubled, from 2.2 crore in March 2020 to over 5 crore by September 2024. Demat accounts have also surged, rising from 4.2 crore to over 10 crore during the same period.

Assets under management (AUM) in mutual funds saw a sharp increase, climbing from Rs 22 lakh crore in March 2020 to over Rs 67 lakh crore by September 2024. However, this growth has remained largely urban-centric.

In comparison, bank deposits grew at a slower pace, rising from Rs 137 lakh crore to Rs 225 lakh crore over the same timeframe.

Railways to roll out airport-like baggage rules

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Indian Railways is working on implementing airport-style, stringent baggage rules for train passengers.

The railway is planning to implement this on a pilot basis in the North Central Railway's Prayagraj division. The system will be rolled out in phases, beginning with Prayagraj and Chheoki Junctions by October-November, before being extended to other stations, said an official in the railways.

As per the proposal, the railway passengers have to weigh their luggage using an electronic weighing machine before entering the platforms. If passengers are found carrying heavy luggage, they have to pay luggage charges, said a railway official here.

Passengers in AC first class will be allowed 70 kg of luggage free of charge, AC second class 50 kg, AC third and sleeper class 40 kg, and general class 30 kg. Any excess luggage from this will attract a fee, said the official.

A private agency will later be selected through tenders to install weighing machines and scanners at its own cost and share revenue with the Railways, said the official.

Under the plan, baggage scanners will be placed at entry and exit points, and tags issued for registered baggage. Excess baggage will need to be booked as parcels at standard parcel rates, the official said.

The railway is already taking up massive station development projects across the country with modern facilities. In the modernised stations, there will be segregation of passengers with separate entry and exit gates and also allowing only valid ticket holders to enter the platforms.

Israel mobilises around 60,000 reservists to conquer Gaza City

Military says it has taken first steps of operation in Gaza City

JERUSALEM, AFP

Israel's defence minister approved a plan on Wednesday for the conquest of Gaza City and authorised the call-up of around 60,000 reservists, piling pressure on Hamas as mediators push for a ceasefire.

Defence Minister Israel Katz's move, confirmed to AFP by a spokesperson, came as mediators awaited an official Israeli response to their latest proposal in ceasefire talks.

While mediator Qatar had expressed guarded optimism over the latest proposal, a senior Israeli official said the government stood firm on its call for the release of all hostages.

The military has taken the first steps of a planned operation to take over Gaza City, spokesman Brigadier General Effie Defrin said on Wednesday.

Following a clash with Hamas south of Khan Younis in the strip on Wednesday, he said: "We will deepen the attack on Hamas in Gaza City, a stronghold of governmental and military terror for the terrorist organisation."

Palestinians rush for cover after an Israeli strike on a building in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip on Wednesday. AFP

Defrin said troops had already begun circling the outskirts of Gaza City and Hamas was now a "battered and bruised" guerrilla force.

"We have begun the preliminary operations and the first stages of the attack on Gaza City...IDF forces are holding the outskirts of Gaza City," he said.

On the ground in Gaza City on Wednesday, Mustafa Qazzaat, head of the emergency committee in the Gaza municipality, described the situation as "catastrophic", with "large numbers" fleeing eastern neighbourhoods.

One resident, Anis Daloul, 64, said the Israeli military had "destroyed most of the buildings in Zeitoun and displaced thousands of people".

Israel's security cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved the plan to conquer Gaza City in early August, sparking fears it would worsen the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Netanyahu has come under growing pressure at home and abroad to end the war, with the German government saying on Wednesday that it "rejects the escalation" of Israel's campaign. French President Emmanuel Macron said the offensive "can only lead to a complete disaster for both peoples", warning it would "drag the region into a permanent war". Katz's approval of plans to conquer Gaza City came days after Hamas said it had accepted the latest proposal from mediators for a ceasefire.

Israel clears settlement project

Israel gave final approval for a controversial settlement project in the occupied West Bank that would effectively cut the territory in two, and that Palestinians and rights groups say could destroy plans for a future Palestinian state, AP/PTI reports from Tel Aviv. Settlement development in E1, an open tract of land east of Jerusalem, has been under consideration for more than two decades, but was frozen due to US pressure during previous administrations.

Uganda has not agreed to take deportees from US, says minister

KAMPALA, REUTERS: A senior Ugandan official denied on Wednesday a media report that the country had agreed to take in people deported from the US, saying it lacked the facilities to accommodate them.

Citing internal US government documents, CBS News reported on Tuesday that Washington had reached deportation deals with Uganda and Honduras as part of its drive to step up expulsions of migrants to countries where they do not have citizenship.

"To the best of my knowledge, we have not reached such an agreement," Okello Oryem, state minister for foreign affairs, said. "We do not have the facilities and infrastructure to accommodate such illegal immigrants."

President Donald Trump aims to deport millions of immigrants who entered the US illegally and his administration has sought to increase removals to third countries, including by sending convicted criminals to South Sudan and Eswatini.

The CBS report said the agreements with Uganda and Honduras were based on a provision of US immigration law that allows people seeking asylum to be rerouted to third countries if the US government determines those nations can fairly hear their claims.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's wife Yoshiko Ishiba hugs Tunku Tunku, the mascot of the International Horticultural Expo 2027 in Yokohama on Wednesday. REUTERS

Pak extends airspace ban for Indian aircraft till Sept 23

Pakistan authorities on Wednesday extended its airspace ban for Indian aircraft till September 23, PTI reports from Lahore.

The Pakistan Airports Authority has issued a fresh NOTAM (notice to airmen) announcing the one-month extension of the restriction on Indian aircraft in Pakistan's airspace. "All aircraft operated by Indian airlines will not be allowed to use Pakistani airspace. The ban also remains in place for military and civilian aircraft that are Indian-owned or leased," the authority said. The ban was initially imposed on April 23 for one month in the wake of tension between the two countries following the Pahalgam terrorist attack. The move barred Indian carriers and aircraft from flying over Pakistani territory. Days later, on April 30, India responded with a reciprocal airspace closure for Pakistani aircraft and airlines. The tit-for-tat restrictions were first extended on May 23.

140 civilians killed in Congo

Rwanda-backed rebels killed at least 140 people in farming communities in eastern Congo in July, a human rights group said in a report Wednesday, describing the killings as "summary executions", AP/PTI reports from Dakar(Senegal).

Human Rights Watch said 141 people, predominantly Hutus, were feared dead or missing after the attacks near Virunga National Park in North Kivu province, citing local experts and witness accounts. It said the killings appeared to be part of a military campaign by the M23 group, the most prominent of more than 100 armed groups fighting for control in eastern Congo, against the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, a mostly Hutu armed group. Nearly 2 million Hutus from Rwanda fled to Congo after the 1994 Rwandan genocide that killed 800,000 Tutsi, moderate Hutus and others.

Kids coming from all over France and abroad throw their cap as they attend a concert at the Champ-de-Mars near the Eiffel Tower in Paris on Wednesday. AFP

Karachi hit by rain and flooding

Pakistan ordered businesses, schools and public offices in Karachi to shut on Wednesday after torrential monsoon rain left at least 10 people dead in the densely populated port city, Reuters reports from Karachi.

The monsoon has brought havoc across Pakistan in recent days, with the death toll from flash floods that hit the mountainous northwest on Friday rising to 385. Authorities said an unspecified number of people remained missing. The rains began in Karachi on Tuesday, causing widespread flooding as rainfall reached levels not seen in years in some parts of the southern city, which is Pakistan's financial capital and biggest city - home to more than 20 million people.

Russia seeks role in Ukraine talks

Russia said on Wednesday that it must be part of any discussion on security guarantees for Ukraine and downplayed the likelihood of an imminent summit with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, AFP reports from Moscow.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned that "seriously discussing security guarantees without the Russian Federation is a utopia, a road to nowhere". Moscow signed the Budapest Memorandum in 1994, which was aimed at ensuring security for Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan in exchange for them giving up numerous nuclear weapons left from the Soviet era. But Russia violated that first by taking Crimea in 2014, and then by starting a full-scale offensive in 2022.

Over 70 Afghan deportees from Iran killed in accident

KABUL, REUTERS

An overcrowded bus carrying Afghans expelled from Iran crashed in western Afghanistan and at least 79 people were killed, authorities said on Wednesday.

The crash on the Herat-Kabul highway involved a motorcycle, a truck and a bus late on Tuesday, said Ahmdullah Muttaqi, head of the information department for Herat's provincial government.

The bus was carrying Afghan refugees expelled from Iran, part of an exodus of hundreds of thousands of people, who were on their way from the border to Kabul.

Abdul Mateen Qaniee, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Interior, said that the bus caught fire after the accident, which happened a 30-minute drive outside Herat. He said on Wednesday that the death toll was 79, with 17 children among the deceased.

Video footage from the scene showed bright flames engulfing the bus, with a fire truck trying to douse the flames. A charred metal skeleton remained of the bus afterwards, pictures showed.

Traffic accidents are common in Afghanistan, with poor infrastructure exacerbated by decades of war, and drivers not following the rules. "We urge transportation authorities to provide accurate information about the accident as soon as possible and to share their findings regarding the responsible party," said Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Afghan government.

The wreckage of a bus is towed at the site of a crash in Guzara district of Herat province on Wednesday. AFP

US to screen immigrants for 'anti-Americanism'

Trump policy raises fears of bias in immigration decisions

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

The Trump administration has introduced a new policy requiring immigrants seeking to live and work in the United States to be screened for "anti-Americanism," a move critics warn could open the door to bias and subjective decision-making.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) said on Tuesday that officers will now assess whether applicants for benefits such as green cards have "endorsed, promoted, supported, or otherwise espoused" anti-American, terrorist, or antisemitic views.

"America's benefits should not be given to those who despise the country and promote anti-American ideologies," Matthew Tragesser, a USCIS spokesman, said in a statement. "Immigration benefits — including to live and work in the United States — remain a privilege, not a right."

It is not specified what constitutes anti-Americanism, and it is unclear how and when the directive would be applied.

A woman and her child arrive at a hearing as federal agents patrol the hallways outside of a courtroom in New York City on Wednesday. AFP

"The message is that the US and immigration agencies are going to be less tolerant of anti-Americanism or antisemitism when making immigration decisions," Elizabeth Jacobs, director of regulatory affairs and policy at the Centre for Immigration Studies, a group advocating immigration restrictions, said on Tuesday.

Jacobs said the government is being more explicit about the kind of behaviours and practices officers should consider but emphasised that discretion is still in place.

"The agency cannot tell officers that they have to deny — just to consider it as a negative discretion," she said.

Critics worry the policy update will allow for more subjective views of what is considered anti-American and permit an officer's personal bias to cloud their judgment. "For me, the really big story is they are opening the door for stereotypes, prejudice, and implicit bias to take the wheel in these decisions. That's really worrisome," said Jane Lilly Lopez, associate professor of sociology at Brigham Young University.

The policy changes follow others recently implemented since the start of the Trump administration, including social media vetting and the most recent addition of assessing applicants seeking naturalisation for "good moral character." That will not only consider "not simply the absence of misconduct" but also factor in the applicant's positive attributes and contributions.

"It means you are going to have to do much more work to provide evidence that you meet our standards," Lopez said.

US imposes new sanctions on four ICC judges, prosecutors

WASHINGTON/THE HAGUE, REUTERS: President Donald Trump's administration on Wednesday imposed sanctions on two judges and two prosecutors at the International Criminal Court (ICC), as Washington ramped up its pressure on the war tribunal over its targeting of Israeli leaders and a past decision to investigate US officials.

In a statement, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called the court "a national security threat that has been an instrument for lawfare" against the United States and Israel.

Washington designated Nicolas Yann Guillou of France, Nazhat Shameem Khan of Fiji, Mame Mandiaye Niang of Senegal, and Kimberly Prost of Canada, according to the US Treasury and State Department. All officials have been involved in cases linked to Israel and the United States.

"The United States has been clear and steadfast in our opposition to the ICC's politicisation, abuse of power, disregard for our national sovereignty, and illegitimate judicial overreach," Rubio said. The second round of sanctions comes less than three months after the administration took the unprecedented step of imposing sanctions on four other ICC judges.

UK faces more protests after asylum seekers hotel injunction

LONDON, REUTERS: The British government's policy of housing thousands of asylum seekers in hotels was facing severe pressure on Wednesday, as opponents leapt on a court ruling to call for protests and legal action to have them all evicted.

According to a regular tracker of voters' concerns, immigration has overtaken the economy as the biggest issue amid anger over record numbers of asylum seekers arriving in small boats across the Channel, including more than 27,000 this year.

On Tuesday, the High Court in London granted a temporary injunction to stop asylum seekers from being housed in the Bell Hotel in Epping. The hotel had become a focal point for regular protests after a resident was charged with sexual assault.

Pakistan, China and Afghanistan agree to extend CPEC to Kabul

ISLAMABAD, PTI: The foreign ministers of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan on Wednesday agreed to expand their cooperation in multiple fields, including the extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Kabul.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Afghanistan acting foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi took part in the 6th Trilateral Foreign Ministers Dialogue in Kabul which focused on political, economic and security cooperation.

The agreement on extension of the multi-billion dollars CPEC comes as Islamabad and Beijing are expected to launch the second phase of the project later this month during Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

Pakistan's Foreign Office in a brief statement on X said that the three sides "committed to strengthen joint efforts against terrorism".

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi (right) with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Kabul on Wednesday. AFP

"They also reaffirmed their commitment to deepening collaboration in trade, transit, regional development, health, education, culture, and combating drug trafficking, as well as, extension of CPEC to Afghanistan," it said.

First visit since 2021

This is the first visit by the Chinese foreign minister to Afghanistan since the Taliban stormed to power in 2021 while the third by Dar to the Afghan capital since April.

According to sources, China has played a role in easing tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In a bilateral meeting with his Afghanistan counterpart, Pakistan's foreign minister claimed there was an "increase in terrorist attacks" in his country by terrorist outfits operating from Afghanistan, the Foreign Office said.

In the last trilateral meeting in May in Beijing, the foreign ministers of the three countries had first agreed to expand the CPEC to Afghanistan to boost "trilateral" cooperation.

India has been severely critical of the CPEC as it passes through Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir. New Delhi is also opposed to China's Belt and Road initiative as the project includes the CPEC.

JUSTICE DELIVERED

UK man found guilty in shooting of Kerala girl

LONDON, PTI

A man involved in the planning of a drive-by shooting in north-east London which left a nine-year-old Kerala girl with life-changing injuries has been found guilty of the attack.

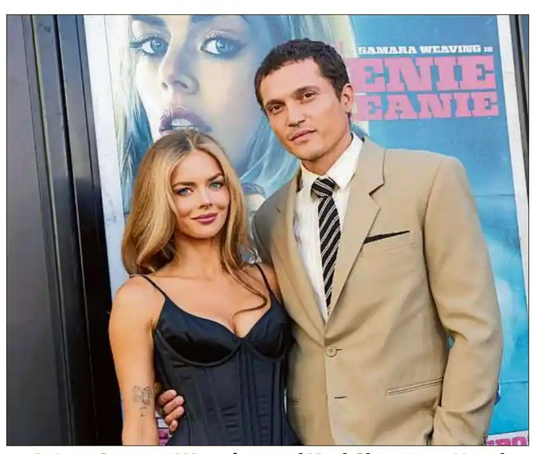
The Metropolitan Police said a jury convicted 33-year-old Javon Riley on Monday of the attempted murder of three men as well as causing grievous bodily harm to the nine-year-old girl.

His trial at the Old Bailey court in London heard how Riley did not shoot the gun but played a key role in orchestrating and implementing a plan intended to end the lives of rival gang members of an organised crime network on May 29, 2024.

The innocent girl was caught in the crossfire and left with life-changing injuries as a result of a stray bullet being lodged in her head.

"In a single moment, the future we had imagined for our daughter was torn away. She was once an energetic, adventurous child — everything that celebrated movement, energy, and life," said the girl's mother, in a statement issued by the Met Police.

"Now, weakness on her left side means she can only watch from the sidelines, living with a titanium plate in her skull and a bullet still in her brain. As parents, we are shattered — emotionally, physically, mentally, and financially. Each day brings new challenges," she said.



Actors Samara Weaving and Karl Glusman attend the special screening of 20th Century Studios' "Eenie Meanie" in Santa Monica, California, on Tuesday. AFP

'Ban on real money gaming puts jobs & investments at risk'

Media platforms seen losing at least Rs 2K cr annually in ad revenue

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a damning blow to the real money gaming (RMG) industry, the Lok Sabha, on Wednesday, passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, which bans the operation of the segment. For one, the sector that employs over two lakh people, is staring at major job loss. The legislation also puts at risk investor capital with over $2.2 billion being poured into online gaming startups in the country in just the past 5.8 years.

According to data sourced from market intelligence firm Tracxn, there are 986 active online gaming startups in the country and they have received total investment of about $2.2 billion across 155 funding rounds since 2020. In this year alone, online gaming startups have received $35.22 million equity funding across 11 rounds. The RMG sector, which is valued at about $3.2 billion, contributes over 85% of the sector's revenue.

Last year, Digital India Foundation released a Combating Money Laundering In Online Gaming Ecosystem report that mentioned that about 90 million pay to play and with around 100 million daily online gamers, the sector is supported by over 400 homegrown startups.

The ban means OTT players, digital companies and broadcasters stand to lose at least Rs 2,000 crore annually if RMG advertisements vanish.

Yasin Hamidani, Director of Media Care Brand Solutions, stated that it is estimated that RMG and fantasy platforms collectively spend over Rs 10,000 crore annually on marketing and advertising across digital, sports, and influencer channels.

"The RMG sector contributes substantially to government revenue, generating around Rs 6,909 crore in GST in just six months, while TDS collections crossed Rs 1,080 crore in FY24. India earns about Rs 20,000 crore annually from GST and income tax combined on online RMG platforms," he said, adding the allied ecosystem encompassing advertising, tech, and infrastructure tied to RMG—is estimated to be a Rs 6,000 crore-a-year contributor that could be adversely affected. He added that another assessment puts the potential black hole in ad spending at nearly Rs 2,000 crore annually—this is what media platforms like Meta, OTT players, and broadcasters stand to lose if RMG ads vanish.

Over the past few years, gaming has emerged as one of the fastest-growing digital categories, driving ad spends, user engagement, and even employment opportunities. "A sudden clampdown could lead to revenue shrinkage and job losses across marketing, tech, and creative roles," he added.

Dream11, My11Circle, WinZo and Games 24x7 are major RMG platforms and this sector has attracted global investors such as Tiger Global, DST Global and Chrys Capital.

Eximius Ventures, which does not invest in online real money gaming, said the bill is largely targeting RMG. Pearl Agarwal, founder and managing partner, Eximus Ventures said none of our four gaming investments fall in this category. "We had concerns about the long-term viability of this model early on and consciously decided to stay away. This is a major blow to the real money gaming industry - fantasy sports, rummy, ludo, and others will be heavily impacted, leading to pivots and significant job losses. Given that 70–75% of India's gaming revenues currently come from this segment, the industry will shrink in the short term," Agarwal said.

From a legal perspective Shreya Suri, Partner at CMS Induslaw, observed that this new Online Gaming Bill is a curveball - nothing short of unprecedented and has sent the gaming sector into a state of frenzy. "This confusing pivot to a blanket ban comes soon after the IT Ministry enacted intermediary rules in 2023 to include online real-money games under a light-touch, co-regulatory framework. This is not just regulatory whiplash - it's reshaping the competitive landscape overnight with massive consequences for innovation, livelihoods, and trust in policymaking. The industry is following this closely to see if there is room for consultation, clarity and course correction," she added

In the long run, this move by the government may open up opportunities for other genres. Casual, mid-core, hardcore, and esports - where global leaders have emerged, industry observers noted.

Lok Sabha passes bill to ban online games played with money

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, to ban online games played with money as the government aimed to check rising instances of addiction, money laundering, and financial frauds through such applications.

The bill, introduced by Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw earlier in the day, was passed in voice vote, without a debate as opposition members raised slogans demanding a discussion on the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar by the Election Commission.

Once the legislation is passed by both Houses of Parliament, offering or facilitating online money gaming will be punishable by imprisonment of up to 3 years and/or a fine of up to Rs 1 crore.

Vaishnaw in his opening remarks said the government seeks to encourage e-sports and online games that foster educational and cultural values, skill development and social engagement.

He also said an authority will be set up to oversee four key segments : e-sports, educational games, social games and real money gaming. All platforms will have to register and comply with the rules set by the authority.

Core sector growth slows to 2% in July on lower energy output

Coal, gas, crude oil production falls

Coal production saw sharpest fall in over five years.

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Core infrastructure sector output growth slowed to 2% in July from 6.3% recorded in the same month last year, dragged by contraction in coal, natural gas and crude oil production, official data showed on Wednesday.

Coal production witnessed the sharpest fall in over five years. July coal output was 12.3% lower when compared with the same month last year. Crude oil output declined for the seventh consecutive month. It fell by 1.3% year-on-year during the month under review. Natural gas output fell by 3.2%.

Key infrastructure sector output measured in terms of the Index of Eight Core Industries had posted a growth of 2.2% in June. It has been revised upward from 1.7% reported earlier. The cumulative output growth in the core sector during the April-July period of the current fiscal stood at 1.6% year-on-year.

The core sector comprises eight industries – coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity. These eight sectors have 40.27% weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

The low growth in infrastructure sector output is expected to keep the IIP growth at around 2% year-on-year in July 2025, said Paras Jasrai, Associate Director at India Ratings and Research.

Rating agency ICRA has pegged the July IIP growth in the range of 1.5 to 2.5%. "The year-on-year growth in core output eased slightly to 2% in July 2025 from the upward revised 2.2% in June 2025, while remaining muted as the growth performance of the mining-related sectors and electricity continued to remain weak, partly on account of the healthy monsoon turnout," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA.

Only two sectors had a better year-on-year growth than the core sector output in July 2025. Steel output jumped by 12.8% year-on-year, the sharpest increase in 21 months. Cement production growth rose to a four-month high of 11.7% in July.

Robust growth in steel and cement production indicate strong construction activity during the month.

"The growth in the capex of the Government of India and the states was quite robust in Q1 FY2026, which is likely to have supported the demand for construction inputs," said Nayar.

While electricity generation reverted to a growth after a gap of two months, the extent of the same remained muted at just 0.5%.Fertiliser production increased by 2%.

Jasrai said core sector growth is likely to improve to around 5% in August due to favourable base effect and robust increase in power generation. Till August 19 this month, the daily power generation was up 5.2% year-on-year.

MPC says US tariffs drag on growth, flags benign inflation outlook

MUMBAI, REUTERS: The monetary policy committee members flagged evolving risks from global trade tensions and tariffs as a key drag on growth but said the economy remains resilient with the inflation outlook benign, minutes of the August meeting showed on Wednesday.

The Reserve Bank of India held its key repo rate steady at 5.50% earlier this month, after cutting rates by 100 basis points so far in 2025.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee voted unanimously to retain a "neutral" stance, citing the need for flexibility amid domestic and global uncertainties.

"Growth projected at 6.5% is resilient," RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra wrote in the minutes, but added the projection was "certainly lower than what we can achieve."

He warned that uncertainty in external demand, driven by tariffs and geopolitical tensions, remained a major drag on growth.

India faces as much as 50% tariff on exports to the United States starting August 27 after U.S. President Donald Trump imposed an additional 25% tariff earlier in the month citing New Delhi's continued imports of Russian oil.

Malhotra said the moderation in food inflation since the June meeting was larger than expected, but cautioned that the uncertainties around tariffs were still evolving. He added that the neutral stance would provide the necessary flexibility to respond to changing conditions.

Infosys makes 80% bonus payout to employees for Q1 FY26

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

IT services firm Infosys has rolled out an average performance bonus of 80% to a majority of its employees for the first quarter of this financial year, following its strong first quarter (Q1) performance.

In an internal communication, seen by *DH*, Infosys said the organisation average bonus payout stood at 80% for Q1FY26 and that for employees at level PL4, an outstanding (OS) rating translates to 89% bonus payment and those who met expectations (ME) will be given 80% bonus.

Employees at PL5 and PL6 levels with an outstanding rating will be provided 87% and 85% bonus, respectively.

In the last quarter, the Bengaluru-based firm paid the lowest bonus to its employees. Depending on business units' performance, the company paid anywhere between 50% and 70% to its employees and a majority of its employees received 60% or below and only a few had received about 70%.

In Q1, Infosys reported a 7.5% year-on-year increase in its revenues at Rs 42,279 crore. Based on its Q1 performance and outlook, Infosys revised its revenue guidance to 1% to 3% for FY26 from the earlier guidance of 0% to 3%.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Infosys Finacle, part of EdgeVerve Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Infosys announced its collaboration with Uniting Financial Services (UFS), a charitable development fund in Australia, to implement the next-gen Finacle Digital Banking Suite.

"This collaboration will enable UFS to transform its operations, helping enhance business agility, compliance, and operational efficiency. It will also help UFS to provide a world-class digital experience for its customer base, introduce new offerings faster and scale seamlessly, in line with its purpose-driven growth strategy," the company said in a BSE filing.

Proposed law requires NMDC to cough-up Rs 13,975 crore in taxes

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Public sector mining giant NMDC Ltd may have to shell out an estimated tax of Rs 13,975 crore to the state government following the enactment of the Karnataka (Mineral Rights and Mineral Bearing Land) Tax Bill, 2024. The Bill, which was passed by the Karnataka legislature in December last year, is awaiting the assent of the President of India.

The Bill, in its present form, proposes retrospective applicability of tax on mineral rights and mineral bearing lands. "Should it be enacted as currently drafted, the Company may be liable to pay tax amounting to approximately Rs 13,975.07 crore. However, considering the pending legislative process, the reservations of the Governor, and the ongoing stakeholder discussions, this amount has been disclosed as a contingent liability in the financial statements," NMDC said in its latest annual report.

The state government had passed the Karnataka (Mineral Rights and Mineral Bearing Land) Tax Bill, 2024 subsequent to the Supreme Court verdict which stated that states can collect mineral taxes on mineral bearing land with retrospective effect from April 1, 2005.

To date, the Bill is pending enactment, awaiting the assent of the President of India. Based on the legal opinion obtained by the Company, since, the Governor of Karnataka has referred the Bill for Presidential assent along with reservations on the legality of the said bill, it cannot be treated as law unless and until such assent is received, the company said.

However, in case of the enactment of the new law, the company intends to recover the applicable amount from its customers with whom it has signed long-term agreements.

"As per the terms of the Long-Term Agreements and the Auction Notices, any future imposition of statutory duties, levies, or taxes is contractually recoverable from customers/ bidders. Upon enactment of the Bill, the Company will assess the enforceability of such recourse provisions and take appropriate legal action to recover the applicable amounts from concerned parties," NMDC said in the annual report.

The company has challenged the levy as being retrospective and in conflict with central mining laws. If upheld, MRT and other additional levies could erode NMDC's margins, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said in its recent analysis on the company.

Under the proposed regime, the total levies in Karnataka (including royalty, DMF, NMET, mining premium, and MRT) would amount to Rs 2,707 per tonne. (about 78% of IBM price) as against Rs 1,822 per tonne (about 52% of IBM price) earlier. Given that about 30% of NMDC's production comes from Karnataka, the incremental duty of Rs 885 per tonne in the state could drag down NMDC's overall EBITDA by an estimated Rs 250-300 per tonne, the analyst firm said.

Govt raises objections to Vedanta demerger plan

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The central government has raised serious objections to the proposed restructuring plan of billionaire Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta group, alleging concealment and non-disclosure of material information.

Objections were raised by officials during the hearing on Vedanta's demerger plan in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). According to sources, officials flagged hidden liabilities and inflated revenues by Vedanta group firms.

However, Vedanta said the proposed demerger is a strategic step to "unlock long-term value by creating sector-focused, pure-play businesses with independent management teams."

"Vedanta has filed a detailed response to the Centre's representation. The Company has informed the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal that the Company will issue a corporate guarantee in favour of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) once the Scheme becomes effective," Vedanta said in a statement.

It added that Malco Energy Limited is unable to meet or satisfy potential contractual liability, if any, towards MoPNG arising under the Production Sharing Contracts and Revenue Sharing Contracts (pertaining to the oil and gas blocks). Malco Energy Limited is a subsidiary of Vedanta.

Vedanta Limited share price fell 1.03% to Rs 445.45. The stock dipped to a low of Rs 437.60 in the intra-day trade.

UltraTech to shed 6.5% stake in India Cements

REUTERS: UltraTech Cement said on Wednesday it will offload a stake of up to 6.5% in its unit India Cements, valued at Rs 745 crore according to Reuters calculations, via open market transactions.

India Cements' stock ended 0.8% lower at Rs 370.25. Shares of UltraTech, India's largest cement maker, ended flat at Rs 12,874.

The company, which took control of India Cements in July last year, said the sale was to comply with "applicable laws". India's market regulator mandates that controlling shareholders, called promoters in India, can only hold a stake of up to 75%. UltraTech owns an 81.5%.

Tata Motors returns to South African car market after six years

JOHANNESBURG, REUTERS: Tata Motors returned to South Africa's passenger vehicles market after a six-year absence, launching three ranges of SUVs and an entry-level compact hatchback to take on Chinese competitors.

Growing demand for budget-friendly cars is luring global automakers to offer consumers more options, in a shift that spotlights rising reliance on low-cost imports from India and China, but puts a question-mark on future domestic production.

Tata unveiled the Punch compact sports utility vehicle (SUV), the Curvv coupe-inspired SUV, the compact hatchback Tiago and its flagship premium SUV Harrier, all combustion engine cars that go on sale from September.

Its return pits Tata against a rising tide of Chinese automakers such as Chery Group, BYD, Beijing Automotive and GWM, which have offered competitively priced vehicles with different powertrains in recent years. Tata exited the passenger vehicles market in 2019 after selling brands such as its Indica hatchback.

SLICK MOVES

PSU refiners ramp up Russian oil buying despite US criticism

BLOOMBERG

The state-run refiners have returned to buying Russian oil after a brief pause, despite the South Asian nation facing higher tariffs for the trade and a volley of criticism from Trump officials.

Processors including Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation bought some cargoes of Russian Urals over the past two days, said traders familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified because they're not authorized to speak publicly. Shipments are for loading in September and October, they added.

Earlier this month, state refiners paused buying of Urals after President Donald Trump singled out India's role in the Russian oil trade, threatening economic penalties. New Delhi asked processors in late July to draw up plans to pivot away from the OPEC+ producer in the scenario where flows were stopped.

White House Trade Adviser Peter Navarro wrote in a Financial Times column this week that the surge in Russian imports was driven by "profiteering by India's Big Oil lobby" and not domestic needs. Separately, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent claimed some of the "richest families in India" were benefiting from buying Moscow's oil, and reiterated plans to boost tariffs on New Delhi.

Trump has threatened to raise the levies on all Indian imports to the US to 50% on Aug. 27, half of which would be due to purchases of Russian oil. India's government has stated that its crude imports are based on market factors and that it will take all necessary actions to protect national interests.

The souring of relations between India and the US has pushed New Delhi closer to Moscow and Beijing. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently hailed Russian President Vladimir Putin as a "friend," and he has plans to visit China later this month — his first trip to the country in seven years.

Meanwhile, the discount for Urals — Russia's flagship crude that's shipped from its western ports — has deepened to $2.50 a barrel to Dated Brent, up from $1 in July, according to traders. That's likely provided added incentive for India's oil refiners to return to buying the grade, they added.

Spokespersons from IOC and BPCL didn't immediately reply to emails seeking comment on the recent purchases of Urals.

'DGCA staffing crisis 'existential threat' for aviation safety system'

NEW DELHI, PTI: A Parliamentary panel on Wednesday suggested a time-bound plan to grant administrative as well as financial autonomy to DGCA and flagged that the staffing crisis at the regulator is an "existential threat to the integrity of India's aviation safety system".

Besides, the committee said the current imbalance, where aircraft induction is outpacing airport growth, is putting unsustainable pressure on existing facilities, degrading service quality, and dangerously straining safety margins, as it pitched for developing a comprehensive National Capacity Alignment Plan to synchronise airport infrastructure development with airline fleet induction schedules.

The Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture -- headed by Rajya Sabha member and JD(U) leader Sanjay Kumar Jha -- submitted its report on the 'Overall Review of Safety in the Civil Aviation Sector' on Wednesday.

A centuries-old baobab tree stands tall in Haveri's Savanur.

Living with trees, living by trees

In the dense silence of the state's forests, trees are more than flora — they are deities, clan emblems, ancestral memories, and keepers of ancient wisdom, writes Shivanand Kalave

Around our forest trees lie intimate roots of our own beliefs and stories full of wonder. However, for centuries, our forest policies, focused on teak and commercial plantations, have overlooked this native wisdom.

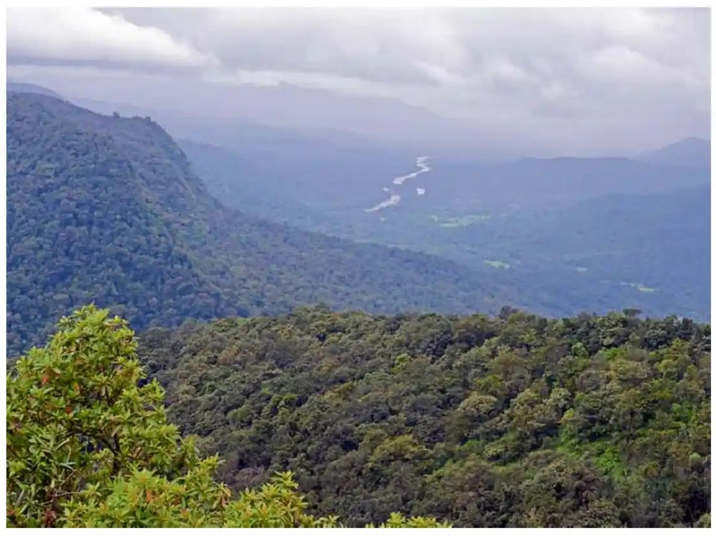
Among the Soliga community in Chamarajanagar district, one such tale still shapes identity. The Hongelara Kula, or the clan of the Honge tree (Indian beech), derives its name from a spiritual awakening. According to legend, a clan member once cut down an Indian beech tree, only to discover it housed a divine spirit. As penance, the clan vowed never again to cut or burn the Honge, a vow still honoured today.

Another story from the Uttara Kannada's Kumari Marathi community speaks of Indian butter tree. During a hunt, an Indian gaur killed one of the Kumari Marathis. In a community meeting, it was discovered that the hunter had climbed a tree, but the tree bent down, making him vulnerable. They interpreted this as an omen. Since then, the community decided that the Indian butter tree should neither be climbed nor felled. Such beliefs, born from lived experience, speak about an instinctive ecological wisdom.

Community identities

Across Karnataka and beyond, many communities and families identify themselves with the trees and plants around them. 'Aalada Mane Ramegowda', 'Appe Ramaiah Hegde', 'Halsinahalli' family, 'Mattikoppa Gowdaru', 'Lakkijaddi Sahukararu', 'Honne Haklu Shettaru' — all these names reflect their bond with specific trees.

Tribal communities such as Halakki, Mukhri, Namdhari, Nadava, Karevokkaliga, Lamani,



Many beliefs of local communities in the Western Ghats are rooted in instinctive ecological wisdom and lived experience.

Siddi, Gowli, Hasalara and others identify their clans with trees or animals and believe it is their sacred duty to protect them. They hold strong totemic and ecological connections with specific trees: jasmine, coconut, Indian rosewood, cane and tellicherry tree among them.

In history, the Kadamba dynasty, the first Kannada rulers who made Banavasi their capital, is associated with the Kadamba or the burflower-tree. In Ranebennur, locals revere the giant milkweed shrub and do not harm it.

Rooted in mythology

The bael tree associated with Lord Shiva, is another example of a plant protected by devotion rather than legislation. Mythology tells that the Pandavas hid their weapons beneath a shami tree during exile, a tale that has led to the tree being left untouched to this day.

Some trees are protected by community faith. While constructing the Talaguppa railway

A tree on the banks of Madaga Kere near Chikkamagaluru, which is considered sacred by the locals.

line in 1938–39, a *Tare (Terminalia bellirica)* tree had to be cut. Locals refused, believing Lord Shani resided in it. Many such trees were ultimately protected by local faith.

The Gonds, among the earliest inhabitants of the Gondwana landmass, trace their heritage back over 200 to 300 million years to when earth was one landmass: Pangaea. As continents drifted apart, remnants of shared plant life survived across regions, a living echo of earth's deep past.

Researchers like M R Pampanagouda and K M Metri have documented Gond clan symbols, linking totems with trees and animals. For example, the Lalgonda community consists of four deity groups among the Gonds. Their totems include the teak tree, tortoise, wild boar and dog. Those of the tiger totem don't harm tigers; snake clans won't hurt snakes. Different tribes are associated with Indian laurel, moringa, tulsi, bamboo etc.

Colonial tree culture

Colonial forest law, designed by the British and adopted post-independence, focused on revenue and timber extraction — especially teak. The British intensified teak extraction between 1830 and 1849. Even post-independence, from 1950 to 1980, forest policies favoured felling natural forests to plant commercial teak.

Species like eucalyptus, acacia and casuarina dominated afforestation plans, sidelining native plant-based beliefs.

A quiet revolution, however, is blooming.

A year ago, forest enthusiast Brijesh Hegde from Bengaluru sourced seeds of the African baobab, one of the oldest trees known to have lived on earth, from Senegal in West Africa, where he had previously lived.

With the support of the State Forest Department officers Himavati Bhat and Manoj Deshbhag, the saplings were nurtured at the forest department nursery in Uttara Kannada's Yellapur and distributed to temples free of cost.

Public awareness campaigns followed. Author H R Krishnamurthy identified the baobab as a Kalpavriksha, the mythical wish-fulfilling tree. A 600-year-old baobab in Savanur, planted by a Nathpanth monk, still stands today. All this information was given to attract more people.

Many people from far-off places walked in to fetch the saplings, and as a result, baobabs are growing comfortably in several temple premises now.

Encouraged by public interest, more trees — sandalwood, Ekanayaka (Salacia reticulata), Indian laurel, Arjuna tree, Indian beech, jamun tree, poison nut tree, ashoka tree, flame of the forest — are being shared with temple trusts and communities, complete with cultural and ecological documentation to help revive lost connections.

Planting belief

All these examples show that state's tree heritage offers a powerful, people-led path to conservation, one rooted not in policy, but in reverence.

Planting a tree is more than an ecological act — it is an act of memory, identity and commitment. Families, communities, temples, and institutions can each take a sacred tree: Protect it, nurture it, and pass down its story through generations.

By collecting seeds, exchanging saplings, sharing knowledge, and involving community leaders and local institutions, sapling distribution can become a sacred mission, a revival of belonging and ecological balance.

(Translated from Kannada by Divyashri Mudakavi)

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

The Varadaraja Temple at Baichapura near Magadi.

In Baichapura, a temple for a mother

Amid the quiet lanes of Magadi taluk, Kirti Malhotra uncovers Baichapura's buried past

Soon after the 516th birth anniversary celebrations of Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda across the state, my young friend Anupam Baidya expressed his desire to join me on one of my short exploratory travels. I thought of taking him towards Magadi and exploring some of the region's lesser-known historical places. Soon, I began scanning various archives and the old Mysore Archaeological Survey (MAS) reports, hoping to uncover something intriguing.

While reading the MAS 1914–15 report, I came across a fascinating note on Magadi town, its fort, and the temples around it. Among the entries for villages in Magadi taluk, a line stood out: 'Varadaraja temple at Baichapura is a good structure in the Dravidian style. According to tradition, this temple was built by Kempe Gauda so that his mother, who was too aged to visit Kanchi, might worship Varadaraja here.'

The report also mentioned other temples in the vicinity and a mutt, sparking our interest to explore and assess their current state.

Further research in the MAS 1922–23 edition revealed that the Varadaraja temple was built in 1712 AD by Mummadi Kempavirappa Gauda, the last ruler of the Magadi Kempe Gauda's lineage.

Taking the Bengaluru–Magadi highway, we arrived at Hosapete Circle, took a right, and then a left opposite a theatre to reach the edge of Baichapura village. There, we met Rangaswamaiah, a local villager. Upon enquiring about the temple, he offered to accompany us, sharing tales connected with the village along the way.

After a short walk, I could see the centuries-old temple, now lying in a ruined state. Weeds and grass had taken over the roof, and the *mukhamantapa* (front porch) was being used as a goat shelter. It seemed completely abandoned until Rangaswamaiah called out, and Raja Iyengar, the temple's priest, emerged and opened the doors.

Temple of serenity

As we stepped in, the coolness of its ancient stone structure engulfed us, instantly transporting us back three centuries. Straight ahead, beyond a brief *antarala* (ante-chamber), stood the deities. The *mantapa* where we stood had four pillars, polished columns smoothly cut with circular grooves at the top and rectangular pedestals bearing engraved carvings.

The priest invited us closer. Before us stood a beautifully sculpted image of Lord Vishnu on an intricately carved pedestal flanked by tigers. In front of Vishnu was a seated idol of Goddess Lakshmi, holding lotus buds, placed on a simpler rectangular pedestal.

The hall had some relics, including what appeared to be images of the revered Tamil Vaishnava saint Nammalvar and the philosopher and reformer Ramanuja. The temple's structure, though still holding, was ageing. In some places, piles of stones had been stacked to support crumbling walls.

A short walk from the Varadaraja temple took us to the temple of the village goddess Kalaghattamma, also mentioned in MAS 1914–15. This region is now home to several other shrines. A smaller temple called Hunnikote, built around an ancient ant-hill, also stands nearby. These shrines are nestled under the canopy of a large banyan tree.

The 18th century mutt at Baichapura. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

Mutt in ruins

We then proceeded towards Magadi bus stand, taking the Venkataiahnapalya in search of the old Lingayat mutt. Hidden behind the newly built Shani Mahatma temple was the structure we sought — an overgrown, dilapidated ruin.

Walking through thick weeds and tall grass that almost completely obscured it from view, we finally arrived at the multi-pillared mutt. It resembled a Shiva temple more than a traditional mutt. The four-pillared *mukhamantapa* led into a vast, open *mantapa* once enclosed by walls that had long since collapsed. Still, the roof stood, just barely, supported by 16 carved stone pillars. Among the carvings were depictions of entwined snakes.

Referred to as Mummadi Gauda's Matha in MAS 1914–15, this structure was likely constructed around the same time as the Varadaraja temple.

WEAVING NARRATIVES

In search of a lost thread: The story of Patteda Anchu

A vanished 10th-century weave was revived through oral histories, design research and the memory of one remarkable woman, writes Hemalatha Jain

It all began with a question — and a gap.

I had heard whispers of a weave called Patteda Anchu — spoken of with nostalgia by older weavers and mentioned in fragments across weaving communities in north Karnataka. They said it was a 10th-century weave, once common, but slowly erased by urbanisation and changing aesthetics.

Everyone had heard of it, but no one seemed to have seen it. No one could show me a sample. No loom had woven it in decades.

That absence stirred something in me. How could a fabric, rooted so deeply in people's memory and culture, simply vanish? As a textile designer and educator with decades in the field, I have often worked to revive or research lost traditions. But this time, the silence itself pulled me in.

And so began my ethnographic journey into the heartlands of Karnataka: part fieldwork, part pilgrimage. I interviewed master artisans, weavers, preparatory weavers and elders in remote villages. Each conversation brought new details — one described the texture, another remembered the border pattern, and someone else spoke of the colours. But I still couldn't touch it. Still no physical sample. Just stories, and more stories. Until I met Radha Amma.

Radha Amma was introduced to me by an anganwadi worker in a village near Savadatti. "Talk to my grandmother," she said. "She will tell you everything you need to know." Her grandmother, Radha Amma, was a former Devadasi — a living bridge between tradition and memory, someone whose life had witnessed the very fabric I was chasing.

Tracing the weaves

When I met Radha Amma, she sat with dignity and quiet power, her weathered hands folded in her lap, her eyes alert. Her voice was soft but steady as she recalled the customs of her time. It was in her courtyard, shaded by a neem tree, that I finally began to understand what Patteda Anchu really was.

She told me about the Yellamma Savadatti temple. Families would arrive at the temple with a simple cotton saree — Patteda Anchu — and place it at the feet of the goddess. The saree was then blessed by the priest. After receiving the blessing of the goddess, the family would take it home and gift it to the bride to wear on her wedding day. A simple cotton saree, soaked in ritual, faith and symbolism. It was practical — durable enough for farm life, but sacred enough to be worn at a wedding. Its name itself is descriptive: Patteda Anchu roughly translates to "striped border" — a reference to its minimal but elegant design.

I was moved deeply by her story, even more so when she disappeared into her trunk and pulled out a saree.

There it was. Faded, delicate but unmistakable. A real Patteda Anchu. Time had made its mark on it. The colours were muted, and the threads worn thin, but it still held a quiet beauty. I asked her if I could take a small piece for documentation, but she refused. This saree, she said, had been her grandmother's. It had history, and it could not be parted with.

I respected her decision.

But my curiosity burned on. As I carefully folded the saree to hand it back to her, a single thread loosened at the hem. I slipped it into my notebook—my only sample, 'stolen' with guilt and reverence.

That one thread became my proof. I had it tested scientifically, and the results showed that the fibre was at least 150 years old. It was cotton, hand-spun, naturally dyed.

With that one thread, the story of Patteda Anchu came full circle for me. It was no longer a myth.

Preserved in homes, hearts

The saree that once clothed farmers and blessed brides had simply gone underground, preserved not in museums or archives, but in the homes and hearts of women like Radha Amma.

The weave, like many others, had faded not due to lack of beauty or function, but because the world around it had changed. Fashion moved on. Synthetic fibres entered the market. The looms fell silent.

Since then, I've worked with local weavers to bring Patteda Anchu back into production — respectfully, slowly, informed by both oral history and design research. We're not reinventing it — we're reawakening it. And every time a young bride wears it today, she wears not just a saree, but a story, a blessing, a piece of heritage that almost slipped away.

All because of one grandmother. And one thread.

(Hemalatha Jain is a textile revivalist, curator and educator)

A woman weaves a Patteda Anchu saree at Gadag's Gajendragad; The 10th-century weave, which slowly vanished from wardrobes, is making a comeback in recent years. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR AND DH

Nitish's big ton powers Swastic Union home

BENGALURU, DHNS: Nitish Arya scored a 144 not out to help his side Swastic Union CC (1) post a 28-run victory over Jawahar SC (1) via VJD in the KSCA Group I - I, II and III Division under-19 inter-club tournament here.

The innings, backed by Rohit RV's half-century (58), took Swastic to 281/3 in a rain-affected match. In response, Jawahar SC reached 200/5 in 43.5 overs before rain stopped play. Sameer Godhi and Rudra Singh hit half-centuries in the unsuccessful chase.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Swastic Union CC (1): 281/3 in 50 overs (Nitish Arya 144 n.o., Rohit RV 58, Praneeth Shetty 34 n.o.; Sidhanth Sunil 2-53) bt Jawahar SC (1): 200/5 in 43.5 overs (Sameer Godhi 53, Rudra Singh 58, Pranjal Jain 33 n.o.; Rathan BR 2-26, AT Deekshit 2-39) via VJD.
Jolly Cricketers: 229/7 in 50 overs (Shathayu Chakraborty 100 n.o., Arjun RV 40; Manvir Agasthya 2-32, Rayan Ahmed Khan 3-50) lt to Modern Cricket Club: 231/8 in 49 overs (Manvir Agasthya 33, Akshath Kombettu 57, Ansh Agrawal 53, Sanchit Kumar 28; Arjun RV 2-37, Aarya Golecha 3-50, Sampreet Karambar 2-21).
Bangalore Sports Club: 324/9 in 50 overs (Vaasav Venkatesh 55, Ananth S 111, Prateekh Nagaraj 31, Arush Jain 30, Susheel R Udupi 26; Raghav Vyas 3-56, Suresh Kumar Mohan 2-58, Ishaan Nayak 2-49) bt Whirlwind Cricketers: 147/9 in 43 overs (Nanje Gowda GS 62; Yuvaan Jain 3-31, Advaith Karthik 4-33) via VJD. Mount Joy CC: 224 all out in 49.1 overs (Amogh R Shetty 112, Guru Shreyas Prakash 46; Chayanveer Sharma 3-29, N Lochan Charan Reddy 3-34) bt Bangalore Occasionals: 195 all out in 48.3 overs (Barath C 43, Farhan Farooq 25, Chayanveer Sharma 36 n.o.; Charan S Reddy 3-40, Ryan Bali 5-32).
Jayanagar United Cricketers: 273/2 in 50 overs (GK Saivarun 134 n.o., Rajarshi Mitra 94) bt Johnson CC: 173 all out in 39.3 overs (Chinmai R 73 n.o., Aaryan Aiyappa 30; Bhavya Vunna 2-32, Vijay Maller 2-28, Mitran Nandakumar 3-42).
Southern Cricketers: 237 all out in 49.2 overs (Likith V Gowda 41, Yeshwanth N 49, Prahallad Behera 26, R Kushal 27 n.o.; Chirag R Gowda 3-37, Mohammed Kaif Ur Rehman 2-51, Preet R Jain 4-43) lt to Jawahar SC (2): 239/2 in 38.1 overs (AM Srihari 32, Hruday Gowda 92, Rithvik Gowda 82 n.o.).
Malleswaram Gymkhana: 294 all out in 45.2 overs (Manjunath AS 80, Nihaal Khan 53, Tanish Yadav RC 40, Shiva Guru Rakshith MG 39; Shaik Mohammed Sufiyan 3-34, Gagan Karnati 2-34) bt Merchants CC (1): 230 all out in 44.3 overs (Gagan Karnati 57, Nishchal MN 29, Dhyan S Gowda 70 n.o.; Shiva Guru Rakshith MG 4-39, Jeevan P 3-27).
Young Lions Club: 185/9 in 50 overs (Karan Raghavendra 26, Arjun Aravind Potti 37, Manish Gowda A 45, Shivaraj R 28; P Jayanth Abhiram 2-44, Kushalr 3-31, Nihal H 3-24) lt to City Gymkhana: 127/2 in 34.5 overs (Siddhanth Smaran 48 n.o., Naresh 69 n.o.) via VJD.

FOOTBALL LA LIGA

Real make shaky start

Mbappe scores from the spot as Madrid edge a fiesty Osasuna 1-0

MADRID, AFP

Kylian Mbappe struck from the penalty spot as Real Madrid beat a dogged Osasuna 1-0 on Tuesday to make a winning start in La Liga under new coach Xabi Alonso.

The France striker, last season's European Golden Shoe winner, scored early in the second half after he was fouled in the area by Osasuna defender Juan Cruz.

It was enough to seal the points in Alonso's first game in charge at the Santiago Bernabeu, with Madrid now unbeaten in their opening fixture of a league campaign since 2008.

"You can see that Kylian wants to do even more after this first year where he did great things," said Alonso.

Mbappe finished as La Liga's top scorer with 31 goals in his first season in Spain, and is now wearing the number 10 shirt vacated by Luka Modric after the Croatian left for AC Milan last month.

"I don't know if it's linked to the new number or not, or simply to his desire to win, but he wants to improve individual and collective performance and inspire his team-mates."

Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe celebrates after scoring against Osasuna during their La Liga clash at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on Tuesday. AFP

"You can see his desire every day. Today he created those decisive moments that enable us to win matches."

Madrid had a shortened pre-season after their run to the Club World Cup semifinals in July, but Alonso has been adamant that would not be used as an excuse after their request for the Osasuna match to be postponed to a later date was rejected.

"To start on the right foot is key in La Liga. We know we weren't well prepared," Madrid defender Dani Carvajal told DAZN. "But we basically didn't suffer and it was a complete display."

Spain international Carvajal came off the bench for his first league appearance since October after a long-term knee injury, replacing Trent Alexander-Arnold in the second half.

Alexander-Arnold made his La Liga debut after his move from Liverpool, with former Bournemouth defender Dean Huijsen and left-back Alvaro Carreras other summer arrivals included in the starting line-up.

Madrid though were without England midfielder Jude Bellingham, who is expected to be sidelined until October as he recovers from a operation to solve a recurrent shoulder issue.

Madrid are looking to turn the page on a disappointing end to the Carlo Ancelotti era after relinquishing both their domestic and European crowns last season.

Gukesh bounces back in style

Praggnanandha, Firouzja notch up victories

ST. LOUIS (USA), PTI

D Gukesh

World champion D Gukesh put his opening-round blues behind him and scored an excellent victory over former world rapid champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the second round of the Sinquefield Cup here.

On a day when R Praggnanandhaa played a quiet game to draw with Fabiano Caruana of the United States, Alireza Firouzja of France gave a perfect endgame lesson as he crashed through the defense of Duda Jan-Krzysztof of Poland in the other decisive game of the day.

Levon Aronian of the United States played out a draw with compatriot Samuel Sevian to remain in joint lead while another American Wesley So drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France in the 10-player $3,75,000 prize-money tournament.

With seven rounds left, Praggnanandhaa, Aronian, and Firouzja share the lead on 1.5 points. Gukesh moved to joint fourth place alongside Caruana, Wesley So, Sevian and Vachier-Lagrave. Gukesh faced the open Sicilian, popularised by the legendary Viktor Korchnoi in the last century. There have been many takers of the variation at the top level, including Caruana, but these days the opening is not a favourite among elite players.

Gukesh played one of the testing variations and did not shy away. Abdusattorov got a passed pawn in the middle of the board supported by another pawn, but his king was always under the hammer as Gukesh's imaginative manoeuvres proved.

Results: Round 2: R Praggnanandhaa (Ind) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA); Alireza Firouzja (Fra) bt Duda Jan Kryzstof (Pol); Levon Aronian (USA) drew with Samuel Sevian (USA); Wesley So (USA) drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra); D Gukesh (Ind) bt Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb).

Anand to renew Kasparov rivalry in Clutch Chess exhibition

NEW DELHI, PTI: Indian great Viswanathan Anand will revive his iconic rivalry with Russian stalwart Garry Kasparov, while world champion D Gukesh will go up against familiar foe Magnus Carlsen in Clutch Chess exhibition matches in October in St Louis, USA.

Kasparov and Anand last squared off in 2021 at the Croatia Rapid and Blitz competition in Zagreb, where the Russian had emerged victorious. The two have clashed 82 times across formats in their illustrious careers, with Kasparov leading in all of them and 30 games ending in draws.

"Two former world champions, Garry Kasparov and Viswanathan Anand, go head-to-head in a special Clutch Chess (Legends) exhibition match from (October 7 to 11). This once-in-a-generation clash celebrates the legacy of two chess greats and officially launches the month of reopening festivities," the St Louis Chess Club stated in a press release.

"The exhibition match will be the first event held in the Club's enhanced facility, reaffirming the city's role as the chess capital of the United States and a global leader in the game."

Salah wins third PFA POTY

Mohamed Salah

MANCHESTER, AFP

Mohamed Salah became the first player to win the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) men's Player of the Year for a third time on Tuesday after guiding Liverpool to Premier League glory.

The Egyptian scored 29 goals and provided 18 assists to propel the Reds to a record-equalling 20th English top-flight title with four games to spare last season.

Salah also scooped the award in the 2017/18 and 2021/22 seasons.

The 33-year-old picked up the Football Writers' Association and Premier League Player of the Year awards in recent months.

Aston Villa's Morgan Rogers won young Player the Year following a breakthrough campaign that saw the attacking midfielder make his senior international debut for England.

Matz Sels and Chris Wood are recognised for their fine campaigns at Forest.

Dubey, Siddharth star as Mystics sink Warriors

MYSURU, DHNS: Pravin Dubey thumped seven sixes under pressure, including one of the last ball to pull off a mammoth seven-wicket victory over the Mysore Warriors at the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20.

KV Siddharth (49 not out off 34 balls) and Smaran R (38 off 24) made vital contributions to set up the platform for Dubey's antics.

Batting first, Venkatesh M (93* off 53) and Yashovardhan Parantap (48 off 24) had taken the Mysore Warriors to a formidable total of 209/5 after a sluggish start.

Pravin Dubey

In the chase, Luvnith Sisodia (37 off 13) hit K Gowtham for four sixes in the first four balls of the innings to give the Mystics a thunderous start of 67/1.

In the day's second game, Shivkumar Rakshith's half-century went in vain as a late surge from Naveen MG and Suraj Ahuja helped the Bengaluru Blasters cross the finish line with three wickets to spare in a final over thriller.

Brief scores: Mysore Warriors: 209/5 in 20 overs (Venkatesh M 93 n.o., Manish Pandey 29, Yashovardhan Parantap 48; Lavish Kaushal 2-25) lt to Gulbarga Mystics 213/3 in 20 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 37, Smaran R 38, KV Siddharth 49 n.o., Pravin Dubey 53 n.o.)
Hubli Tigers: 141/8 in 20 overs (Shivkumar Rakshith 61; Vidyadhar Patil 2-25, Naveen MG 2-32) lt to Bengaluru Blasters: 145/7 in 19.2 overs (LR Chethan 32, Suraj Ahuja 27 n.o., Naveen MG 33 n.o.; Yash Raj Punja 3-34).

Arya stars for Max Muller

BENGALURU, DHNS: Nitish Arya's brilliant double hundred overshadowed Hritvik Mishra's seven-wicket haul as Max Muller High School took the first innings lead and collected three points against Delhi Public School, East in the KSCA's U-16 school (I Division) tournament for KM Ramprasad Shield here.

Batting first, Max Muller scored 351 on the back of Arya's 210 and Rafa Poonacha Ballachanda's 51. Hritvik was the star with the ball for DPS East as he returned with 7/61 to diminish the damage.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Max Muller High School: 351 all out in 84.1 overs (Nitish Arya 210, Mansoor Javed Eroor 25, Rafa Poonacha Ballachanda 51, Arnav Ravindra Dere 38; Krishna 2-70, Hritvik Mishra 7-61) & 114/2 in 21 overs (Nitish Arya 71) drew with Delhi Public School, East: 137 all out in 63.5 overs (Nikith Girish 26; Narasimha 2-16, Prayag Bijesh 2-38, Soumith Kongara 4-12, Rohan R Gowda 2-9). **Max Muller High School: 3 points; Delhi Public School, East: 1 point.** The Sports School: 256 all out in 89.4 overs (Sparsh 36, Vikram 128 n.o., Lakshit Kumar Sipani 36; Swayam Shabadi 4-45, Krishna Sreekar JS 2-35, Krish Rao 2-76) drew with Holy Saint Eng School: 136 all out in 51.2 overs (Krishna Sreekar JS 61 n.o.; Vikram 2-23, Bhishma N 3-29, Bhargav D 3-38) & 170/3 in 32.3 overs (Brahmanya Theertha R Kuber 100 n.o.). **The Sports School: 3 & Holy Saint Eng School: 1.**
Bishop Cotton Boys School: 73 all out in 48.1 overs (Vansh Pratap Singh 4-13, Satvik Dummi 2-10, Daksh JN 2-5) drew with Jain Heritage School: 161/7 decl in 51.5 overs (Daksh JN 37, Aaryansinh Chavda 26, Aditya Jha 33; Vivek Seervi 3-33, Rohan Vyas 2-32). **Jain Heritage School: 3;Bishop Cotton Boys School: 1.**
Ebenezer International School: 64 all out in 37.2 overs (Deep Mittra 25; Saad Rayyan Khan 3-21, Parinith K 5-9) vs Delhi Public School, North: 32/4 in 22.1 overs (Srinath Seshadri 3-17) (Match Drawn with first innings unfinished due to rains). **Ebenezer International School: 1; Delhi Public School, North: 1.**
Sri Kumaran Children's Home CBSE: 89 all out in 43.3 overs (Sukruth B Kukke 28; Manish V Patil 8-25, Siddhanth Vasu 2-30) & 60/8 in 24 overs (Manish V Patil 5-37, Siddhanth Vasu 3-20) drew with Vidyashilp Academy: 130/5 decl in 22.4 overs (Panshul Sharma 81, Krish Singh Dhami 25, Sukruth B Kukke 4-46). **Vidyashilp Academy: 3; Sri Kumaran Children's Home, CBSE: 1**
School of India: 179/9 decl in 46.1 overs (Aaryan Nagesh 32, Shaurya Tandon 37, Guna Siddhartha P 28; Pavan RK 2-37, Sunay Veer 4-57, Prajwal N Gowda 2-12) vs St Joseph's Indian High School: 16/2 in 11 overs (Samji Vishnu Sathwik 2-5) (Match drawn with 1st innings unfinished due to rains). **School of India: 1;St Joseph's Indian High School: 1.**
Gopalan National School: 127/3 in 66 overs (Vidhan Loyalka 56 n.o. vs Delhi Public School, South. **Gopalan National School: 1; Delhi Public School, South: 1.**

Main Street wins Betbricks7 Play and Win Handicap

KOLKATA RESULTS

Arti Doctor-trained Main Street, ridden by Trevor Patel, won the Betbricks7 Play and Win Handicap, the feature event of the Kolkata races no Wednesday.

1. Select Handicap - 1200M: Winsangel (Imran Chisty) 1; N R I Fantasy (Ashhad Asbar) 2; I Smell the Danger (Vishal Bunde) 3; Happy Morning (Md Imran) 4; WB: 3/4, 6, 4L; T: 1:14.56; TB: B Mahesh; Fav: N R I Fantasy.
2. Hovercraft Handicap - 1600M: True Faith (Neeraj Rawal) 1; Jahzara (Vaibhav) 2; Sea Eagle (J H Arul) 3; Lucky Nine (Vishal Bunde) 4; WB: 7-1/4, L, Dist; T: 1:39.98; TB: Neil Darashah; Fav: True Faith.
3. Betbricks7 Calcutta Juvenile Sprint - 1400M: Pantazi (Trevor Patel) 1; Star Pride (Tejeshwar) 2; WB: Dist; T: 1:05.45. TB: Aashay Doctor; Fav: Pantazi.
4. Betbricks7 Rising Star Handicap - 1100M: Kerrygold (J H Arul) 1; Honey Cake (Sameer) 2; Jean Lafette (Hasib Alam) 3; Bundle Of Charm (Vishal Bunde) 4; WB: 1-1/2, 5, 3/4L; T: 1:08.44; TB: Neil Darashah; Fav: Kerrygold.
5. Betbrickes7 Play And Win Handicap - 1400M: Main Street (Trevor Patel) 1; Snowpiercer (Ashhad Asbar) 2; King Of Mafia (Imran Chisty) 3; Great Guns (Vaibhav) 4; WB: 1/2, Lnk, 1-1/2L; T: 1:25.60; TB: Arti Doctor; Fav: Snowpiercer.
6. Vajra Handicap - 1400M: Enola Holmes (Neeraj Rawal) 1; Wonderful (Vaibhav) 2; Chililady (Sameer) 3; Cashalaika (Ashhad Asbar) 4; WB: 2-3/4, 4-1/4, 6-3/4L; T: 1:27.08; TB: Neil Darashah; Fav: Enola Holmes.

Bengaluru dividends
I race: Rs 42w; 14, 11, 13p; Fc: Rs 101; Q: Rs 60; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 44; Tri: Rs 164 & 68; Ex: Rs 1,839 & 3,153.
II race: Rs 18w; Rs 12, 11p; Fc: Rs 35; Q: Rs 22; Shp: Rs 22; Thp: Rs 30; Tri: Rs 40 & 27; Ex: Rs 97 & 95.
III race: Rs 10w.
IV race: Rs 18w; 13, 23, 46p; Fc: Rs 228; Q: Rs 193; Shp: Rs 76; Thp: Rs 115; Tri: Rs 2,655 & 1,612; Ex: Rs 10,724 & 2,872.
V race: Rs 40w; 14, 10, 18p; Fc: Rs 164; Q: Rs 52; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 42; Tri: Rs 434 & 186; Ex: Rs 3,198 & 1,687.
VI race: Rs 13w; 17, 10p; Fc: Rs 19; Q: Rs 28; Shp: Rs 15; Thp: Rs 33; Tri: Rs 42 & 19; Ex: Rs 43 & 19.
Jackpot: Rs 259 (995).
Runner-up: Rs 87 (1278)
I treble: Rs 67 (56).
II treble: Rs 110 (91).

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ — ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ-15/ಜೆಇ/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:- 20.08.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಾಅ/ದಾವಿದಾ/ಐ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ-15/ಜೆಇ/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.08.2025.

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ-2000ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ **ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 3054-03-337-0-05-200(ಯೋಜನೇತರ)ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಅಡಿ ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ -48 ಕುಮಟ-ಕಡಮಡಗಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಿ.ಮೀ. 185.83 ರಿಂದ 193.50ರವರೆಗೆ ಮರು ಡಾಂಬರೀಕರಣ ಮಾಡುವುದು (23225) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 150.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮತ್ತು ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 5054-04-337-0-01-154 ಯೋಜನೆ(ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳು ಸುಧಾರಣೆ) ಅಡಿ ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣದ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ-369 ರಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ-76 ಬೀರೂರು-ಸಮ್ಮಸಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಸೇರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (ವಾಲ್ಮೀಕ ಭವನ ರಸ್ತೆ) (22943) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 200.00 ಲಕ್ಷ** ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.08.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.08.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08192 234951, 231530) ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿಐಜಿ/279/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26 — ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the RR Nagara Engineer, DWCC Center, Ramco Layout, Javaregowdanadoddi Main Road, Rajarajeshwari Nagara, Bengaluru-560098.

No: EE/RI/RRN/TEND/02/2025-26 **Date: 20.08.2025**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Tender Notification) (Two Cover System)
(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer Road Infrastructure Rajarajeshwarinagara Division on behalf of the Commissioner, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), invites Proposals (Technical and Financial) for appointing Consultant detailed in the table below.

S.N.	Name of the Project
1	Consultancy services for preparation of Detailed Project Report for the work of Construction of ROB/RUB-ROB at Kengeri Sattelite Town and RUB at Ramolralli Gate at Yeshwanthpur Constituency- 2025-26. **EMD:** Rs.70,000/-.

Calendar of events: 1) Availability of RFP Documents : 22.08.2025 onwards. 2) Last date receipt of Queries : 29.08.2025 14.00 hours. 3) Pre bid meeting : 29.08.2025 15.30 hours. 4) Last Date & Time for uploading of filled proposal : 03.09.2025 16.00 hours. 5) Date & Time for Opening of Technical proposal : 06.09.2025 16.00 hours. 6) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : Will be intimated to technically qualified bidders.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI-Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone

CITY CORPORATION BELAGAVI
C.T.S. No. 4821/26, 4821/27, R.S. No. 1005, Subhasha Nagara, Belagavi, Ph. : 0831-2405304, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_belgaum@yahoo.com, Website : www.belgaumcity.mrc.gov.in

No. : C.C.B./P.W.D./E.E./D.M./TND/E-Proc-15/2025-26
Date : 20-08-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Act1999 Rules 2000 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for Works approved under 15th Finance **Untied Grant Savings Grant 2022-23 & S.F.C. Drinking Water Savings Grant, Corporation Fund & Providing UGD Labours etc.**

1) Last Date for Queries : 25-08-2025 upto 5.00 p.m., 2) Pre-Bid Meeting : 26-08-2025 at 11.00 a.m. in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation, Belagavi, 3) Last Date for Receipt of Tender : 30-08-2025 upto 4.00 p.m., 4) Date for Opening of Technical Bid : 01-09-2025 at 11.00 a.m. in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation, Belagavi, 5) Date for Opening of Financial Bid : 02-09-2025 at 11.00 a.m. in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation, Belagavi.

For more details visit online **Website : https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Any Addendum / Corrigendum will be published in Karnataka Public procurement portal only.

Sd/- Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi.

DIPR/Belagavi/850/Manipal/2025-26

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮನಪಾ/ಲೋವಿ/ಕಾಅ/ಡಿಎಮ್/ಟಿಎನ್‌ಡಿ/ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.08.2025

ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಡಿಪಿಆರ್ ತಯಾರಿಸಲು ನುರಿತ ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮಾಲೋಚಕರನ್ನು ನೇಮಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಸಮಾಲೋಚಕರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅ.ನಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು	Selection Method	ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ
	PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES		
1	Appointment of PMC for Preparation of DPR for Intelligent Transportation Management and Enforcement System "(ITEMS)" for City Municipal Corporation Vijayapur.	RFP	2 ತಿಂಗಳು
2	Appointment of PMC for Preparation of DPR for "Interactive Outdoor Active Display & Juction Improvement" for City Municipal Corporation Vijayapur.	RFP	2 ತಿಂಗಳು
3	ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರವಾಹ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸಲು (Flood Mitigation) ಸಮಗ್ರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಕೈಗೊಂಡು ವಿಸ್ತ್ರತಾ ಯೋಜನಾ ವರದಿ (DPR) ತಯಾರಿಸಲು ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮಾಲೋಚಕರನ್ನು (PMC) ನೇಮಿಸುವುದು.	RFP	2 ತಿಂಗಳು

ಸೂಚನೆ: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ದಿನಾಂಕ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
2) ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.08.2025

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/268/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/5054ಮಳೆ.ಪ./ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ತಾಸ-1/2025-26/850 ದಿ:20.08.2025

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ) (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ.: 1.ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ರಂಗಂಪೇಠದಿಂದ ದೇವಿಕೇರಾ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT18211 2.ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ತಳ್ಳಳ್ಳಿ-ಕೆ ಗ್ರಾ ಮದಿಂದ ವ್ಹಾಯಾ ಹಾಳ ಅಮ್ಮಾಪೂರ- ಮಂಗಳೂರ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_ INDENT18052 3) ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಛಾಯಾಭಗವತಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಯಿಂದ ತೇರಿಮಡ್ಡಿ ತಾಂಡಾದ ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT18054 4) ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಜಾಲಿಬೆಂಚಿ ಬೊಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಸುರಪೂರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ (ವ್ಹಾಯಾ ಅರಸೀಕೇರಿ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕ್) ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT18051 5) ಹುಣಸಗಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಹುಲಿಕೇರಿ ದಿಂದ ಅಮ್ಮಾಪೂರ -ಎಸ್.ಕೆ. ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_ INDENT18053 6) ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಶಾಂತಪೂರ ಗ್ರಾ ಮ ದಿಂದ ಹಾಲಭಾವಿ ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಿ.ಡಿ. ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT18206 **2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:**2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 5054 ಮಳೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಅನುದಾನ ಯೋಜನೆ **3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ **4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 3ನೇ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು **5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**22.08.2025 ರಿಂದ 30.08.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕು ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) **7 ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 30.08.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರೀಕ:** 02.09.2025 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **9) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ:** 06.09.2025 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **10) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ):** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ. **11) ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ಸೂಚನೆ :- ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ)

ಸಹಿ/-ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/214/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2025-26

IN BRIEF

Karnataka crash out

Karnataka crashed out in the quarters of the 15th Hockey India Junior National Championships in a close 3-2 match over Haryana, reports DHNS.

Navraj Singh (6th), Sachin (22nd) and Chirag (59th) scored for Haryana while Nitesh Sharma (28th) and Sampan Ganapathy BP (43th) found the back of the net for Karnataka.

After a rain-washed day, the second quarterfinal took place in the evening with Uttar Pradesh Hockey taking on Madhya Pradesh and defeating them 2-1.

India thrash Nepal 7-0

A clinical India thrashed Nepal 7-0 in their opening match of the SAFF U-17 Women's Championship, with three players scoring a brace each, in Thimphu on Wednesday, reports PTI.

Nira Chanu Longjam (25th, 56th), Abhista Basnett (16th, 41st), and Anushka Kumari (37th, 62nd) scored twice, while captain Julan Nongmaithem (45+1) struck once to ensure a flawless start to India's campaign.

Chopra to skip Brussels DL

Through to the high-profile Diamond League Finals, star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will skip the last leg of the prestigious series in Brussels, Belgium on Friday, reports PTI from New Delhi.

ATHLETICS INTER-STATE MEET

Manikanta sprints to silver

Shivaji finishes runner-up in 10000m, Sneha takes 100m bronze

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka's Sneha SS (left, women's 100m bronze) and Manikanta Hoblidar (men's 100m silver) show off their spoils on the opening day of the National Inter-State meet. Karnataka's Shivaji Parashu (top right) won silver in the men's 10000m earlier in the day in Chennai. Tamil Nadu's Tamil Arasu clinched the men's 100m gold.

Karnataka opened their account in the National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships with three medals on the opening day at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai on Wednesday.

Karnataka's leading sprinter Manikanta Hoblidar clocked 10.35 seconds in the men's 100m dash to clinch the silver medal behind Tamil Nadu's Tamil Arasu (10.22), who smashed the national meet record. None, however, could make the cut-off mark of 10.00 set for the qualification for the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo next month. The five-day domestic event is the last chance for Indian athletes to qualify for the Worlds, whose cut-off date is August 24.

The women's sprint saw Karnataka's Sneha SS claim the bronze medal with a timing of 11.61s behind the Tamil Nadu duo of S Dhanalakshmi (11.36) and Abinaya R (11.58). Earlier, another state girl, Dhaneshwari T couldn't go beyond the semifinal heat as she clocked 11.96. The cut-off mark for Worlds for the event was set at 11.07.

In the men's 10000m, Shivaji Parashu Madappagoudra opened the state's account early in the day as he won the silver medal behind UP's Abhishek (30:56.64). Competing in the event for the first time, the 2023 Asian U-20 Championships silver medallist clocked a 30:57.69. The effort, however, was well short of the qualification mark of 27:00.00.

In the women's 400m, veteran MR Poovamma clocked 54.52 seconds in the semifinal heat and qualified for the final, while Continental Tour gold medallist GK Vijayakumari pulled out of the race due to a heel injury sustained during practice.

Seema posts NMR

Meanwhile, Seema posted the new meet record in the women's 5000m with a timing of 15.42.64 to clinch the gold medal. The timing was short of the direct qualifying mark of 14.50.00. However, an alternate route of qualification is through the world ranking quota, which takes into account the three best performances of the season.

With 42 berths to fill in total for the event, Seema's latest race was her third-best timing of the season and is expected to improve her rankings. At the time of writing this report, the World Rankings were yet to be updated.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu's Reegan G set a new meet record in the men's pole vault with an attempt of 5.20m, obliterating S Siva's 5.11 from 2023. His state-mate M Gowtham also matched the effort to take silver.

Results: Men: 100m: Tamil Arasu (TN) 10.22s (NMR; Old: 10.27s, Gurindrvir Singh), 1; Manikanta Hoblidar (Kar) 10.35, 2; Ragul Kumar (TN) 10.40, 3. **10000m:** Abhishek (UP) 30:56.64, 1; Shivaji Parashu (Kar) 30:57.69, 2; Shivam (UP) 30:59.14, 3. **Pole vault:** Reegan G (TN) 5.20m (NMR; Old: 5.11, S Siva, 2023) 1; M Gowtham (TN) 5.20, 2; Kamal Loganathan (TN) 5.00, 3. **Women:** 100m: S Dhanalakshmi (TN) 11.36s, 1; Abinaya R (TN) 11.58, SS Sneha (Kar) 11.61, 3. **5000m:** Seema (HP) 15:42.64 (NMR; Old: 15:46.92, Suriya Guntur, 2017) 1; Ravina Gayakwad (Mah) 16:53.24, Sanghamitra Mahata (Jha) 18:04.36 3. **Triple jump:** Sandra Babu (Ker) 13.20m, 1; Aleena Saji (Ker) 13.15, 2; Niharika Vashisht (Pun) 13.09, 3. **Hammer throw:** Tanya Chaudhary (UP) 63.91m, 1; Divya Shandilya (Odi) 59.58, 2; Maya (Raj) 57.57, 3.

Ice-cool Anant shoots skeet gold

Saurabh, Suruchi clinch 10m air pistol mixed team bronze

SHYMKENT (KAZAKHSTAN), PTI

Indian shooter Anant Jeet Singh Naruka fired his way to his first individual gold medal in the Asian Championships after edging out Kuwait's Mansour Al Rashidi in the men's skeet final on Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, the Indian pair of Saurabh Chaudhary and rising teenager Suruchi Inder Singh clinched the 10m air pistol mixed team bronze, beating Chinese Taipei.

Naruka finished on top of the podium after prevailing over former Asian Games champion Al Rashidi 57-56 in the final.

Al-Ishaq Ali Ahmed of Qatar settled for the bronze medal with 43.

The 27-year-old Naruka, who has won team gold and mixed team gold in the 2023 edition of the championships, qualified for the final in second position with 119 after five rounds, while Kuwait's Abdulaziz Alsaad led the pack with 120 on their way to the final.

Al Rashidi was third in the qualification with 119.

For Naruka, an Asian Games silver medallist, this was his fifth medal overall in the continental tournament.

Earlier, the duo of Saurabh and Suruchi defeated Liu Heng-Yu and Hsieh Hsiang-Chen 17-9 to add to the individual bronze that double Olympic-medallist Manu Bhaker had won in the women's 10m air pistol competition on Tuesday.

The Indian pair qualified for the medal round in fifth place with Suruchi firing 292 and Saurabh scoring 286. The duo aggregated 578 in qualification as six teams made it to the medal round.

Juniors dazzle

In the junior 10m air pistol mixed team event, the Indian pair of Vanshika Chaudhary and Gavin Anthony won the gold, defeating the Korean duo of Kim Yejin and Kim Dooyeon 16-14.

Anant Jeet Singh Naruka fired India's first individual gold in the ongoing Asian Championships after triumphing in the men's skeet final.

BFI braces for polls after months of turmoil

NEW DELHI, PTI: Months of uncertainty due to governance issues, turf wars and internal power struggles are set to end when the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) holds its much-delayed elections on Thursday.

The hope, finally, is that action inside the ring will reclaim the spotlight.

Two-time president Ajay Singh is seeking a third consecutive term. The SpiceJet MD has remained the central figure in Indian boxing even after the tenure of the previous office-bearers expired on February 2.

Until early this month, he also headed the World Boxing-appointed interim committee that was running BFI's daily affairs, an arrangement seen as a sign of his influence with the newly-formed world body.

During this period, new coaches were appointed for the men's and women's teams, the constitution was amended, and the controversial selection assessment process was also tweaked. A revised system for national camp selections is also in place.

Interestingly, the interim committee under Singh named Kerala state unit chief D. Chandralal, who was one of the candidates for the president's post during the March elections, as head coach of the women's team.

Earlier this month, the interim committee also lifted the suspension of former secretary general Hemanta Kalita in the run-up to the polls.

Both Chandralal and Kalita will vote in the elections.

But the committee's very legitimacy has been under scrutiny. The Indian Olympic Association's fact-finding commission recommended its termination for violating the National Sports Code, 2011.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Maharaja Trophy: Mangaluru Dragons vs Mysore Warriors **(3:15 pm)**, Bengaluru Blasters vs Shivamogga Lions, **(7:15 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

Prasad and team's agenda: Restoring Chinnaswamy as primary venue

BENGALURU, DHNS

Former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad (centre), flanked by former India women's team captain Shanta Rangaswamy and former KSCA treasurer Vinay Mruthyunjaya, released his team's manifesto for the upcoming KSCA elections in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad and his team said they were contesting the upcoming Karnataka State Cricket Association elections in a bid to restore the State's "lost glory" and M Chinnaswamy Stadium's stature as one of the country's primary international cricket venues.

Addressing a large media contingent, their first since they decided to jump into fray, Prasad and Vinay Mruthyunjaya, former KSCA treasurer, said in chorus that they would work with the relevant authorities to achieve their twin targets while enlisting the support of Karnataka stalwarts, including Anil Kumble and Rahul Dravid, for their candidature.

The duo also asserted that the stadium, whose status as an international cricket stadium is in jeopardy, will not be relocated from its current location in the City's CBD.

Terming the venue "the crown jewel" of Karnataka cricket, Prasad said: "We will rebuild and strengthen relations with the government and civic authorities to restore M Chinnaswamy Stadium as India's premier cricket venue, bring international matches back to this historic ground and reinstate its stature on the global stage."

The State government has been denying permission to host any matches at the venue following a stampede that left 11 fans dead and several more injured on June 4 when the huge crowd that gathered to celebrate the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's maiden IPL triumph went out of control.

The State govt then appointed Justice John Michael D'Cunha Commission to inquire the events of June 4. Subsequently, the commission submitted a damning report about the structure, suggesting it was unfit to host high-profile events that have the potential to attract large crowds while recommending the relocation of the stadium.

"Until such infrastructural changes are made, continuing to host high-attendance events at the current location poses unacceptable risks to public safety, urban mobility, and emergency preparedness," the commission stated.

Since then KSCA has failed to obtain permission from cops to conduct matches at the Chinnaswamy. While the entire Maharaja Trophy T20 was shifted to Mysuru, the association is yet to get the nod for hosting ICC Women's World ODI World Cup matches, including the potential final, allotted for Bengaluru.

Further dwelling on the issue, Vinay said, "We will conduct a comprehensive stadium safety audit based on expert recommendations and implement all remedial measures (listed in the report)."

Releasing an elaborate manifesto on the occasion, which was also attended by former India women's team captain Shanta Rangaswamy and former KSCA officials, Prasad said that infrastructure development across Karnataka, structured development of men's and women's cricket, and reviving the Karnataka Cricket Academy under a legendary cricketer from the state were some of their primary agendas.

Calling himself the "chief selector," Prasad said the team was not yet finalised and roles were still to be decided.

Amateur Mannat, rookie pro Heena share pole

BENGALURU, DHNS: Amateur Mannat Brar and rookie pro Heena Kang shared the lead after the first round of the 11th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at Prestige Golfshire here on Wednesday.

The duo shot even-par 72 and led three others, Kriti Chowhan and amateurs Lavanya Gupta and Riya Jadon by two shots.

Mannat Brar

While rookie Heena had a share of the lead, three amateurs figured in the top five, none of whom have won on the Hero WPG Tour.

Heena, who finished tied-fifth in her debut as a pro last month in Zion Hills, opened with a pair of bogeys. The former India international amateur Heena fought back well with birdies on the third, seventh and 12th to get under par. A closing bogey on the 18th saw her finish at 72.

Mannat birdied the fourth but gave that shot back on the very next hole on the par-5 fifth. Two bogeys on the 11th and 12th pushed her back to 2-over but she hit back with birdies on the 15th and the 18th for an even par round.

Kriti Chowhan and amateur Lavanya had two birdies and four bogeys each, while another amateur Riya had three birdies against three bogeys and one double bogey for her 74.

The surprise of the day was Ridhima Dilawari, who won the 10th leg. She struggled to a round of 82 while another former winner Seher Atwal shot 86.

Three players, Ananya Datar, Jasmine Shekar and Anahita Singh occupied the tied sixth place with cards of 3-over 75 each, while five players shared the ninth place. They were Karishma Govind, Durga Nittur, Ananya Garg, Khushi Khanijau and Astha Madan, all of who shot 76 each.

Leading scores (after 18 holes, A denotes amateur): 72: Heena Kang, Mannat Brar (A); **74:** Kriti Chowhan, Lavanya Gupta (A), Riya Jadon (A); **75:** Ananya Datar, Anahita Singh, Jasmine Shekar.

Red-hot Sandhu extends lead at Clover Greens

BENGALURU, DHNS: Yuvraj Sandhu produced a second-round score of four-under 67 to extend his lead to two shots at the Rs 1 crore PGTI Players Championship in Clover Greens Golf Course & Resort near Hosur in Tamil Nadu.

PGTI Order of Merit leader and last week's winner Yuvraj (63, 67), the overnight leader by one shot, moved his total to 12-under 130 at the halfway stage.

Olympian and Pune golfer Udayan Mane (67, 65) returned the day's lowest score of 65 to leapfrog eight spots to tied second place at 10-under 132.

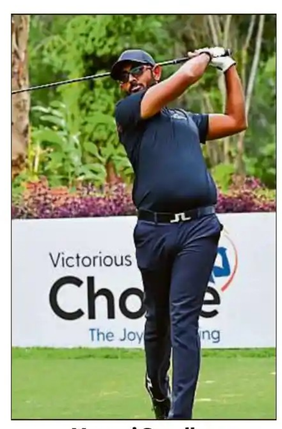
Nepal's Subash Tamang (64, 68) continued in tied second place after shooting a 68 in round two.

The cut was declared at one-over 143. Fifty-seven professionals and one amateur made the cut.

Bengaluru-based teenager Veer Ganapathy was the only amateur to make the cut. He was placed tied 21st at a total of three-under 139.

Yuvraj, a three-time winner this season on the PGTI, had an up and down front-nine as he collected three birdies and bogeys each. However, the 28-year-old international winner made amends on the back-nine by picking up four birdies to power ahead of the rest. Sandhu had a good day with the wedges and drove the Par-4 15th green to set up a two-putt for birdie there.

Leading scores (after 36 holes): 130: Yuvraj Sandhu (63, 67); **132:** Udayan Mane (67, 65), Subash Tamang (64, 68); **135:** Mohd Azhar (65, 70), Kartik Sharma (67, 68), Brashwarpal Singh (66, 69), Shaurya Bhattacharya (64, 71), Kshitij Naveed Kaul (68, 67).



Yuvraj Sandhu

Strikers Lakra, Dilpreet retained for Asia Cup

NEW DELHI, PTI: There were no major surprises in the 18-member Indian men's hockey team picked for the upcoming Asia Cup in Rajgir, Bihar with midfielder Rajinder Singh, and forwards Shilanand Lakra and Dilpreet Singh retaining their places in the squad, announced on Wednesday.

The tournament is scheduled to be held from August 29 to September 7 and the winner will earn direct qualification to next year's FIH men's World Cup to be co-hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands from August 14 to 30.

Ace drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh **(in pic)** will continue to serve as captain of the team.

The trio of Rajinder, Lakra and Dilpreet was also part of the jumbo squad for the preceding tour of Australia. Rajinder came in for Shamsher Singh, Lakra is filling in for the recently-retired Lalit Upadhyay, and Dilpreet was preferred over Gurjant Singh who was ignored for the matches against Australia.

Indian squad: Goalkeepers: Krishan B Pathak, Suraj Karkera. **Defenders:** Sumit, Jarmanpreet Singh, Sanjay, Harmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh. **Midfielders:** Rajinder Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad. **Forwards:** Mandeep Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Dilpreet Singh. **Alternate athletes:** Nilam Sanjeep Xess, Selvam Karthi.

Swiatek, Ruud romp into semis

NEW YORK, AFP: Iga Swiatek shrugged off lingering weariness to partner Casper Ruud to back-to-back victories in the revamped mixed doubles competition at the US Open on Tuesday.

Swiatek -- who on Monday had battled through a two-hour tussle with Jasmine Paolini to win the Cincinnati Open -- looked full of energy as she and Ruud powered into Wednesday's semifinals.

Swiatek and Ruud needed just 39 minutes to dispatch the US pairing of Madison Keys and Frances Tiafoe 4-1, 4-2 in their opening game at Arthur Ashe Stadium, and then reappeared roughly 20 minutes later to defeat Caty McNally and Lorenzo Musetti 5-3, 4-2.

State's Natasha wins heyball Natls with broken finger

BENGALURU, DHNS

Natasha Chethan

Playing with a splint to secure her broken right index finger, braveheart Natasha Chethan of Karnataka defied the odds to be the last one standing in the U-19 girls' section of the inaugural Heyball National Championships at the NSCI in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Natasha -- who broke her finger in a freak accident after being hit by a bike while crossing the road while playing for India at the World Games in Chengdu, China, last week -- emerged victorious in the final against Punjab's Jiya Sehgal.

The two were tied 4-4 after the 100-minute battle, and Natasha then potted the 8-ball from the spot twice in the best-of-five shootout for a 2-0 win. "It was one heck of a win, a very unusual one," Natasha said after her courageous effort. "I didn't expect to emerge as the champion."

The champion cueist from Bengaluru made light of the injury to lord over the field in the newest discipline in cue sports. For, she neither could grip the cue properly nor generate the power, especially in the break shots. "I couldn't feel my cue in the right hand," she said.

In the boys' section, Aarav Sancheti of Maharashtra outplayed Karnataka's Karan Seshadri 7-3 in the title clash. The duo had scored contrasting wins in the last-four stage. The champion had to play out of skin to edge out A Abdul Saif of Tamil Nadu 7-6 in the semis.

Results: Boys: Final: Aarav Sancheti (Mah) bt Karan Seshadri (Kar) 7-3. **Third-place playoff:** Saif bt Chadha 5-4. **Girls: Final:** Natasha Chethan (Kar) bt Jiya Sehgal 4-4 (2-0). **Third-place playoff:** Gianna Rego (Mah) bt Padmakshee (TN) **Final ranking: Boys:** Aarav Sancheti 1; Karan Seshadri 2; A Abdul Saif 3; Vaibhav Chadha 4; Muawiya Thakor 5; Jabez Naveen Kumar 6; Hira 7; Owais Khan 8. **Girls:** Natasha Chethan 1; Jiya Sehgal 2; Gianna Rego 3; Padmakshee 4; L Shruthi 5; Afeefa Thabassam 6; PDSN Usha Jyothi 7; Aleina Khanna 8.

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